

FRS GOES DX

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FRS GOES DX: NEW STYLE !!



COLOPHON

'FRS GOES DX' is a bimonthly magazine which informs about radio in general and **free radio** in particular. It's a publication of FRS-Holland.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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MAILING ADDRESS

All correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG, HERTEN in the Netherlands. **Do not use the address which is on the cover!**

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SOURCES OF INFO

Pirate Chat, Freewave, Radio World, Pirate Connection, Pirate Pages and the Radio Tape.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome in a totally *restyled* 'FRS Goes DX'! It took some energy and puzzling over but finally we've made it! From now on we use new and more powerful software to put together this very magazine. And with the use of the new software, we have much more /better/ sophisticated possibilities enabling us to give the magazine a more professional look. For more info regarding changes etc. I refer at the FRS Newcorner column! By the way: this edition is the first one of volume 13: FRS Goes DX started back in June 1982. A kind of anniversary.

In this issue at long last part 1 of the questionnaire which was enclosed in the November/december 1993 edition. Part 2 will be part of issue 130.

Unfortunately we didn't receive the Russian pirate news from Artiom. On the other hand: we're happy Joop ter Zee's Alternative Thoughts have returned. Apart from the well-known news columns there are two interesting features. In both nostalgia is playing an important role. With this issue we have almost reached what we had in mind in January 1993 when a first step was made to a more informative and better-looking free radio magazine with a touch of non free radio news. All of us hope you are satisfied and you will enjoy reading this magazine more than ever!!

73's. *Peter V.*

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FRS GOES DX: the magazine for the internationally orientated radio enthusiast!

FRS NEWSCORNER

Welcome along in a new edition of FRS Newscorner. There are quite a number of subjects we'd like to bring under your attention...so...off we go !!

FRSGDX: RESTYLED!

It was January 1993 when a first step was made to restyle this very magazine. Most significant change was the introduction of an A4 format. Looking back at your reactions, we can sincerely conclude that most of you welcomed the new format. The next step depended on a number of things and couldn't be carried out until recently. As you will see the lay-out has become completely transformed. Before we exactly decided in which way the lay-out would be changed, a few people were asked to make suggestions and to give their opinion about a couple of ideas which were developed in the past few months. The result is what you can see in this issue 129. We have maintained the "three column style" although we also thought about *four* columns. One page of the current magazine contains approx. 15% more information compared with the previous editions. The readability has improved because of the use of a new letterfont (smaller but much *clearer*) and also because we use a semi-professional printer. Very thin lines between the columns, new 'heads' are on top of each page but also as part of various columns. And with all these improvements we have strived for creating our very own 'magazine-style'. This couldn't be achieved without the use of new, better and more powerful *tools*. Let's hope that you as a reader are satisfied with a renewed FRS Goes DX. We are eagerly awaiting your comments...!

We hope that FRS Goes DX has developed into a more professional magazine although we realize that there are still things which could be done better. Something we haven't finished yet is creating a new logo on the front page and new logos for a number of columns. Although the logo on the front page is a new one, this won't be the definitive version.

As far as the SW *loggings* are concerned we have to point out that a two column lay-out wouldn't match with the rest of the magazine's lay-out. For that reason there are now three columns of logs. As a result it was not possible to include the column with '*details*'. We'd like to know whether you want us to add this column or not.

Adding this information means that we must choose for a smaller letterfont as part of the lay-out for the *loggings*. Otherwise it's impossible to maintain three columns with *loggings* on one page. So...it's up to you!

Apart from restyling the lay-out we have also seriously considered the idea of improving the *contents* of the magazine. For this subject I refer to the results of the FRS Goes DX Questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE

At the end of 1993 a questionnaire was included in edition 126. Part one was all about the SW listener's attitude towards a number of subjects all relating to the SW listening hobby. The results will be published in issue 130 coming out in August. The other part was about this magazine, more specifically: your opinion about the contents of the different columns. Ratings could vary between 1 ("this column doesn't interest me at all") and 5 ("the contents of this column is superb"). Well, after an evening of doing nothing more than *calculating* here are the final results. We have calculated the average figures for each FRS column :

Offshore:	3.9
SW loggings:	4.2
SW News:	4.7
Made in Holland:	3.3
Artiom reports:	3.3
US Free Radio News:	3.3
Medium Wave Logs:	3.0
FRS Satellite Telex:	3.1
News from around....:	3.6
FRS Newscorner:	3.7
Mailbox 2727:	3.5

Well, all in all we think the results are satisfactory. Taking into consideration 3.0 could be the limiting value- everything below could be indicated as an '*unsatisfactory mark*' - one may conclude that all columns are amply appreciated by our reading audience! These results make us happy and indicate that our balanced mix of *updated news* and *features* is doing well. The latter will certainly remain the main target of FRS Goes DX. Perhaps it's not 100% a *free radio* magazine but be sure that most of the output consists of free radio related topics/news/features. We were curious about the marks for columns such as News from Around the

World, FRS Satellite Telex and made in Holland. All are not directly free radio columns but it was crystal-clear that people enjoy these columns too. In this respect FRS Goes DX differs from other free radio magazines and that's a good thing. We'd like to keep that difference, not because we feel we are better but simply we provide items not covered by others!

Of course some of you would like to see certain columns disappearing. But as all have an average of 3+, the most obvious conclusion must be the current formula will be continued. The latter doesn't imply there's no room for new initiatives. At the same moment the lay-out was restyled, we have also been thinking about new columns making the magazine more attractive. Our first thought was to approach a few persons who are *insiders* in the (free) radio world. Two of them have already let us know they are going to write a column in FRS Goes DX. One of them- Herbert Visser- has already compiled his first column in this issue. The other person will hopefully send his contribution as from issue 130 onwards. We are still hoping a third person will join our team of reporters/ contributors.

Back to the questionnaire: a number of interesting comments were added. Here are a few comments:

Rainer Brandt, Germany: *It's only my very own private comment. You cannot do all things best for all subscribers. All in all it's ok. Don't change the style."*

Herman Boel, Belgium: *"Your magazine is unique. Please mention in the US Free Radio News also times and not only frequencies."*

H.D. de Boor, the Netherlands: *"In particular the loggings are of great value. Your loggings mostly help me in finding Unids."*

Anssi Nieminen, Finland: *"Because you cannot please everyone, so you've got to please yourself."*

Alan Pennington, England: *"The main reasons I subscribe to FRS Goes DX is its up-to-date offshore news & comprehensive SW news. The other sections are a bonus but should not be inserted at the expense of the very good offshore & SW news."*

Werner Schaueremann, Germany: *"Perhaps you could put the SW news in alphabetical order."*

S.H. Nielsen, Denmark: *"Thanks for a nice and useful magazine."*

Ian Iredale, England: *"I enjoy the whole magazine."*



J.C. Hoffmann, Germany: "More critical reports about certain (relay-) stations, technical features."

Jesco Dörk, Krefeld: "I'm very interested in station-portraits. I like the column 'Where are they now?!' Quite interesting are historical flashbacks like the story about the German pirates on SW in the 70s."

Steve Comer, Scotland: "All of the magazine is interesting. I've 'scored' Made in Holland highest as you are the only source of information on this. The magazine is much easier to read in the A4 format."

FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

April saw another FRSH broadcast.

Not on the 3rd Sunday this time but on the 24th, the 4th Sun. The trm was planned for the 17th but we were lucky the trms for that day had to be cancelled. Conditiond on the 17th were really appalling and almost all bands were dead. A week later conditions were much better and FRSH was to be heard on two frequencies: 6220 and 7419. Similar to the February/March trms, the modulation quality of the 48 mb tx was not 100%. The mod was distorted while the signal-strength was fine. There were problems with the 41 mb transmitter and this tx wasn't on the air during the whole of the trm. We had something in mind for the month of May but it didn't work out as we planned. At present

timeconditions on 48 metres are very poor and that's the main reason FRSH hasn't carry out a June broadcast. It's just not worth while putting a lot of effort in preparing shows knowing the response will be disappointing because of unreliable propagation. Also in July and August there won't be 3rd Sun broadcasts. What we are planning is a nighttime trm on 48 metres in July, most probably on the 3rd Sunday, July 17th at 00.00 UTC. With a little luck also August will see a nighttime broadcast. We are aiming at a fantastic October trm when FRSH will be celebrating its 14th birthday!! Put it on your calendar: Sunday October 15th ☐

George Zeller

outer limits

Brother Stair Responds to FCC Bust

The January 20 FCC raid of the m/v *Fury* was obviously the biggest pirate radio news of 1994. Glenn Hauser's article in the March issue of *MT* detailed many interesting implications of this major bust. We now have additional information.

The *Fury* was equipped with shortwave transmitters financed by Brother R. G. Stair's Overcomer Ministry of Faith Cathedral Fellowship, Inc. in Walterboro, SC. The FCC confiscated four transmitters during the bust, alleging that they had been used for unlicensed pirate transmissions on 7415 kHz.

WJPL Broadcasts

Allan Weiner was aboard the *Fury* when the FCC raided the vessel. With Scott Becker of Voyager Broadcast Services, Weiner was managing the ship transmitter project for Brother Stair (see the November 1993 issue of *MT*). Veteran pirate DXers will remember Weiner from his prior confrontations with the FCC over the operations of KPF-941 in Yonkers, NY and the bust of Radio New York International on the m/v *Sarah* in international waters off the coast of Long Island.

Other *MT* readers will remember Weiner's interesting forum on pirate radio at one of the Knoxville Monitoring Times conventions. As Glenn Hauser accurately reported last month, Weiner denies FCC allegations that the *Fury*'s shortwave transmitters were used for unlicensed broadcasting.

It is now clear that lengthy broadcasts were heard over a wide area of North America in late December 1993 from a pirate identifying itself as WJPL. The February 1994 issue of *The ACE* documents transmissions from WJPL on December 25 from 0709-1037 UTC, as well as on and off December 29 broadcasts between 0726-0945 UTC. Decent signals were reported in *The ACE* by DXers in widely scattered locations, including Kirk Trummel of Springfield, MO, Yolanda Lewis of Elgin, IL, Marina Pappas of Huron, SD, and Joe Filipkowski of Warwick, RI.

Some WJPL programming included relays of old RNI tapes. At other times the station featured talks by a male announcer identifying himself as Johnny Lightning of RNI. Although the *Fury* ship transmitter allegations remain unproven, the FCC alleges that additional January broadcasts precipitated the raid.

Brother Stair's Reaction

As listeners to his radio program on WWCR and WRNO can attest, Brother R. G. Stair has not been bashful about commenting on the FCC

raid. In an exclusive release to *Monitoring Times*, he clarifies several points about this incident:

- Brother Stair had no involvement in any alleged unlicensed broadcasts. He says that "there was never an intention on our part to do this (project) as a pirate radio. I had insisted all along that it be done legal or not at all... We are God fearing and law abiding folk."
- Brother Stair "was told time and time again" (presumably by Weiner and Becker) that all transmitter testing on the ship would use a dummy load.
- The 40 kilowatt transmitters aboard the *Fury* were designed to support Brother Stair's "deep desire to broadcast more on SW." He says that "I am a preacher of the Word of God and seek to declare the times in the light of Bible prophecy." Stair invested \$125,000 in the transmitter installation.
- Voyager Broadcast Services is a St. Kitts corporation. The *Fury* is registered under the flag of Belize. But, DX hobby rumors that the *Fury* would transmit from Nevis or Belize waters were premature. Stair says that he did not finalize a transmitter destination agreement with either country.
- At the request of Brother Stair, Becker disposed of his interests in the project prior to the FCC incident. However, citing information from Becker, Stair identifies two apparently unlicensed transmissions. One was an "accident" caused by a malfunctioning dummy load installed within the transmitter. A second broadcast was referenced by the FCC in its successful request to a judge for a seizure warrant covering the *Fury* radio equipment.
- Stair is critical of the FCC's confiscation tactics. He alleges that some local officials were hoping to issue only a warning or fine, but that they were overruled "by Washington."
- Faith Cathedral Fellowship has abandoned the maritime transmitter project. But, Brother Stair is attempting to recover his transmitters from the FCC. During his regular radio show, Stair has said that he is formulating new and different transmitter plans. He promises that an announcement would be forthcoming. Stay tuned.



La Voz Popular

In February we covered the full current schedule of the anti-Colombian clandestine La Voz Popular. *MT* reader Robert Ross of London, Ontario, sends in the copy of this station's official logo that we picture here. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity orga-

nization (UNRG) says that the station's first transmission was on May 22, 1987. I wonder how many DXers heard this first broadcast? They claim that their current 2,000 watt transmitter provides reception within a 700 mile radius of Guatemala.

Pirate QSL's

Every month we print maildrop addresses used by pirates for correspondence and reception reports. Most pirates are excellent verifiers, and we have the evidence. Seven of our readers wrote in to report 21 recent QSL's from 17 different pirates, all of which were profiled in recent *MT* issues. The average verification arrived in 41 days, although the range was between one week and five months. Pirates welcome letters from listeners, so feel free to mail off your report!

Our readers who happily plucked the 21 veries from their mailboxes included Scott Krauss (Cleveland, OH), Harold Frodge (Midland, MI), Doug Merkel (St. Louis, MO), Skip Arey (Waterford Works, NJ), Mark Spat (West Swanzy, NY), Gayle Van Horn (Brasstown, NC), and Robert Ross. Congratulations!

What We Are Hearing

In addition to the big WJPL story, once again this month we have reports on more than two dozen North American pirates that have been heard by our readers. We'd love to see your loggings next month. Feel free to send them to this column via the *Monitoring Times* address in Brasstown. We list frequencies in kHz, with times in UTC.

Correspondence maildrop addresses used by pirate stations listed this month include PO Box 452, Wellsville, NY 14895; PO Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214; PO Box 146, Stoncharr MA 02180; PO Box 605, Huntsville, AL 35804 PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario NOP 1W0; PO Box 963, London SW20 8XL, England; and PO Box 220342, 5600 Wuppertal 22, Germany.

Altered States Radio- 7413 at 2230. This drug advocacy station normally programs rock music. Where conditions are poor, they can sometimes be identified by their interval signal of music from the old "Out Limits" television show. Addr: Merlin. (Michael LeClerc Somers, CT)

Christmas Day Radio- 7467 at 0315. We probal won't hear this one again until December for obvious reasons. But, it has been heard for two years in a row with entertaining seasonal holiday shows. Addr: Wellsville, (LeClerc)

CSIC- 7413 at 2345. Canadian Pirate Rambo, with "Psycho Chicken" interval signal, remains one of most active North American shortwave pirates. He l



Just before going to the printer, the latest issue of colleague free radio magazine *Pirate Chat* was received. David, the PC editor made a few interesting remarks regarding the current propagation situation connected with the use of 48/76 metres. Summarizing his point of view, stations have to swap from 48 to 76 metres. He also pleads for broadcasting on other days than on Sunday. Quoting David: *"I would like to ask you, what is the point of broadcasting on 48 metres when propagation conditions are so very unreliable? This area of SW is so much better. Why not forget 6 MHz and swap to 3 MHz. Some people seem to have the idea that this is a night-time only band but you couldn't be further from the truth. 76 metres has much more scope than 48 metres and while I'm on the subject: what's so special about Sundays? Who says that the bulk of SW pirate activity has to be on this day? It seems to me that a lot of SW operators should take a leaf from the Dutch pirate way of thinking and broadcast at absolutely any time. It is as though a lot of SW pirates are unable to do anything outside of a Sunday. This has been the way for decades; isn't it time for change- IT IS 1994!!!!!!"* So far David's thoughts. As active SW free radio DX-er since 1978 and involved with FRS-Holland since 1980, I'd like to give my personal comments on David's views. No doubt David is right about the very poor conditions on 48 metres. And it is indeed a logical step swapping to a more reliable band (76 metres). But it's just too simple to do not look any further. 48 metres has been the most popular SW free radio band since the early 70s when stations like World Music Radio and Radio Gemini ruled the waves in the 6.2-6.3 MHz frequency range. The scene developed and 48 metres remained the place where you could find the SW hobby pirates. Many listeners who started tuning in to SW pirates say 15 or 20 years ago are still listening in nowadays. And ask the majority to which band they tune in most: 48 metres. They have done so for a long time and you can't change a listener's

pattern, a certain attitude from one day to another. Although I know it's simple to switch your dial from 48 to 76 metres. A couple of years ago German pirate PFBS started broadcasting on 5.2 MHz and it looked like more pirates would follow this initiative. A few did but in the end nothing changed and 5.2 MHz didn't become a 'new' band. Reason? Almost no response from the listeners played an important part in the failure of this attempt to create a new pirate band. In this respect it's interesting to ask yourself whether there are two generations of listeners: the ones who started DXing a long time ago and who hold on to the principle that 48 metres is the pirate band (that doesn't mean they don't tune in to other bands!) and the ones who are relatively new and who started DX-ing at a time 76 metres was already introduced as a pirate band. Mind you: this is only a thesis, it's not a fact! Perhaps the same applies to SW operators: some who have been broadcasting on 48 metres for a long time won't leave that band so easily. There's another point. Not all SW pirates are able to switch to 76 metre. A number of stations have no 76 mb transmitter. They can build one or try to find a relay. Not an insurmountable problem but it's obvious not every station will/can switch so quickly to 76 metres. What I mean to say with the above is that a certain 'culture' can't be easily changed, even knowing the underlying idea is positive and ok.

Another point is that in my humble opinion there's a difference between 48 and 76 metres. 76 metres has become a band where stations are mainly qso-ing. That's another type of free radio compared with the stations who are concentrating on the programming side of the free radio hobby. It must be pointed out that there will be listeners who are less interested in chat compared with musical/informative programmes and thus won't tune in that much to 76 metres. Qso-ing is also part of the hobby but it's just different from putting out programmes. So far my comment on the 48/76 metre subject.

As a result of historical factors Sundays is

the most popular day to tune in to SW free radio. Of course: SW broadcasting can be done every day of the week but that isn't all there is to it!! Why has Sundays always been the most popular day? Because most people (that applies to both *listeners and station OPs*) have time to spend on their hobby. In the course of the years the Saturday has also established itself as a 'broadcasting day' but that mainly applies to 76 mb evening/nighttime broadcasters and only to a small degree for 48/41 mb stations. Nevertheless the Sunday remained number one. Perhaps we can talk of a vicious circle: most people tune in on Sundays because apart from having time to tune in- they know most stations will be active on that day. On the other hand: most station OPs choose to broadcast on Sundays because they know the listener's feedback is best on such day. Switching to weekdays will work when qso-ing during evening time on 76 metres. Because quite a number of 76 mb stations broadcast from fixed locations rather than going mobile. They can easily sign on and when they are qso-ing with other stations they will be satisfied. Let's be honest: when qso-ing, the listener's involvement isn't that great compared with listening to a station putting out programmes. But try to put out your programmes on 48/76 metres during a weekday: the response will be minimal. And isn't it the intention of programming stations to receive as much mail as possible?? Indeed it is! Apart from that it must be obvious that many persons don't have the time to be active during weekdays: study, work, family. And the same applies to listeners. Free radio on SW on weekdays won't work when it comes to the programming side; as far as qso-ing is concerned it will work. With my personal thoughts, I have tried to point out that certain things cannot (won't) be change(d) so easily. I think it's good David came up with his ideas but if they are feasible is quite another story. I'm looking forward to your views on this subject!! □

(advert)

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FRS-HOLLAND WILL BE ON IN JULY. TUNE IN ON 48 MB

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

RADIO CAROLINE

RUMOURS

A strange pressbulletin was circulating in March. As we heard it afterwards, we couldn't include it in the previous edition. This rumour, and a few other ones, all relate to Radio Caroline's return on the high seas. *FRSGDX* already reported about a few stories going around. So far none of them appeared to be true! Not strange knowing the world of offshore is an outstanding example of a world full of lies and rumours..... Back to the pressbulletin: it came from 'Rymans', a place just round the corner of Ronan O'Rahilly's house in Chelsea. The report said very shortly Caroline would be returning with a super technical outfit from a new ship fighting against the 1990 UK Broadcasting Act. Initially the station would be on air 14 hours a day between 6 am and 8pm. Broadcasts would be on *FM*. The shows would be recorded 48 hours in advance from a secret location somewhere in Europe. Even the name of the ship was given: the *MV Xentime*, a 130 ft vessel. Only two crewmembers would be aboard and they would be relieved after 48 hours at the moment fresh tapes and provisions would be supplied. There's more... Possibilities on board the ship would enable to beam signals from the landstudio to the ship for direct broadcasting! The latter would only happen scantily. A 50 ft fibre glass antenna tower would be radiating the FM signal. Apart from much more great stories (read:nonsense) it was mentioned that this restart would go down in history as the new 'green' radio ship paying much attention to the environment. Any offshore enthusiast must understand that this unknown reporter is making things up. Many things can hardly be realized. But perhaps it's a good idea to play a record for this person: 'Dreamer' by Supertramp for instance....

A second rumour circulating in the UK concerned the return of Caroline from a platform in the Baltic Sea which would be converted into a broadcasting platform. Then this platform would be towed to the English coast.

Some people think it's possible for Radio Caroline to lease airtime via Holland FM. As reported in issue 128, Holland FM has purchased the *MV Communicator*. As soon as the ship is ready for its new broadcasting task, Holland FM will commence 1224 kHz AM trms from the

Ijsselmeer. The story goes Caroline would be leasing airtime during evening time. What is forgotten is the fact the Dutch media law doesn't allow Dutch stations, operating under Dutch law, to lease airtime to foreign stations. And finally this: the Dutch authorities still have the option to start a radio station on *long wave*. So far they didn't make use of this option and it looks like they won't do so in the near future. Very optimistic people hope/think Dutch authorities will grant Caroline a licence enabling them to start trms on long wave in a fully legal way. Unfortunately we must point out also this option must be relegated to the world of fantasy. Many people would be very happy if Caroline could return on the airwaves in a more or less permanent way. But some forget that certain options are simply impossible...

CAROLINE'S 30TH BIRTHDAY

Strange is that during Caroline's 30th Birthday Party in Clacton-on-Sea, Peter Moore was *absent*. It was a very expensive meeting. Only 50 people paid and showed up. This is certainly not surprising knowing that a n admission ticket costed (approx.) 40 English pounds. This included dinner etc. but even then it's not the sort of price the average Caroline fan has in mind (or better: can afford). After an interview with a Mellow Radio reporter, Peter Moore let slip a remark: "I don't give a fuck about getting back the ship to sea as long she's making money and I got a home. I'm happy in this way." Not very encouraging language for those who have often spent money to support the Ross Revenge. The same applies to those who worked as volunteers on the Ross.

Back to the Caroline Birthday Party which was organised by Ray Anderson- in fact East Anglia Productions- and took place a week before Easter. One of the highlights was a performance by the Fortunes. During their performance some 200 people were watching the show. A very remarkable guest was *Graham Gill* who used to be on Caroline and Radio Northsea Int. Graham was missing for a couple of years and during the opening of the evening activities he did a beautiful live act of 'Way Back Home'.

RESTR. SERVICE LICENCE

By the time you read this column Caroline has just finished another RSL. An RSL is a special 28 day broadcasting licence, awarded by the UK Radio Authority. In

contrast with previous reports, Caroline was broadcasting on *FM* rather than on AM. The opening was on Monday May 16th and the service was closed down Sun June 12th. Power on FM was 15W. Prior to the trms, the organising comitee of the South East Boat Show in Burnham- where the trms were taking place- promised that they would pay all costs of trms

*A so-called **Restricted Service Licence** is available from the Radiocommunications Agency for periods up to 28 days, usually to cover special occasions or events. The maximum ERP is 25W on FM and a mere 1W on AM. The licence, copyright and phonographic performance cost £ 4000. Also transmission facilities, station premises and studio equipment will need to be obtained. Programme presentation has to be as good as, and hopefully different to, competing stations. Advertisers will only be attracted to a station that has a confident and reliable sound and a professional business attitude. Required will be a advertising sales, a presenting and a public relations team.*

including additional costs. The local council promised to promote all kind of activities in Burnham and its surrounding areas via Radio Caroline. For this purpose some 5000 pounds of commercial airtime was bought. Peter Moore was very enthusiastic: "we've been awaiting this chance anxiously! Offshore radio stations have always been part of radio history. The Caroline Club which is run by us has over 13,000 members (???) and we expect many of them to visit the Boat Show. With a view to the trms we have set up a sales department having the task to sell com-



mercial airtime.

According to former Caroline man Paul Graham Caroline's start was successful. On the first day a few well-known radio personalities joined the Caroline line-up. Tommy 'What a guy' Rivers- he used to be on Laser 558- opened up the trms playing Caroline's theme tune by the Fortunes. In the afternoon hours Johnny Walker hosted a programme. That same day Johnny was on BBC Radio 5. During this show he heavily promoted the Caroline pxs from Burnham. At 9pm that day Johnny returned on Caroline with another show: 'Flashing on Frinton'.

The 87.7 MHz FM broadcasts could be received in Frinton but reception was not splendid. More northwards a good signal was Cambridge and even in Oxford Caroline was audible. Southwards the signal reached Whitstable. During the late evening Caroline had to deal with quite some stormy weather preventing Johnny Walker to leave the Ross Revenge! For that reason the next day he wasn't in time back in London to present his regular BBC show.

As far as we know more former Caroline staff were on the Ross to present shows during Caroline's RSL period: Andy Bradgate, Stuart Russell, Caroline Martin, Andy Johnson, Johnny Lewis, Andy Brooks, Steve Masters, Colin Ward, Bongo and former Big L deejay Dave Cash. A very extraordinary guest could have been Lord Sutch.

ROSS REVENGE

A bit of info regarding the transmitting equipment on the Ross: the 50 kW tx is totally dismantled and still is in pieces in a number of boxes. The 10 kW tx is in a bad condition. The 5 kW tx seems to be in a poor condition as well but according to Caroline people the tx's current condition is better than the other ones. In addition there are two 1 kW rigs which are ok. The optimod isn't on the Ross anymore. Thie-audio processor should be in Ireland to use for the SW trms on 6295. The most powerful generator is in good working condition, most of the other generators have to be repaired. Some need spare parts. Studios are ok.

One rather funny story: the coast guard got quite a number of telephone calls recently. People thought there was a fire on the Ross Revenge. A Royal Airforce helicopter checked the situation. What was going on? The Rosscrew was burning down rubbish on the deck.

SW ACTIVITIES

The SW broadcasts emanating from Waterford, Ireland carried on during most weekends of April. April 16th, 17th and 23rd no 6295 trms were noted. Apart from Sun May 1st 6295 was off the air for the whole month. In June trms were monitored June 4th (in the vening hours:splendid signal) and June 5th. Sun June 11th/12th there were again *no* SW pxs.

RADIO BROD

Radio Brod has done within its power to get financial backing making it possible to return on the airwaves. In the middle of April still no sources had been found. The radio vessel can be leased for a minimum period of 3 months. Daily costs are FF 35,000 for the hire of the ship and another FF 15,000 for the broadcasting equipment including a 50 kW transmitter, antenna system, generators and studio facilities. Not particularly cheap....

IRISH PLAN

Irishman Dennis O'Brien, chief executive of Dublin station 98FM, was awarded a licence to run a station on the Baltic Sea. The station should beam its signals towards Poland and a few other countries in Eastern Europe. The new station will be a commercial venture and once the station is up and running, O'Brien hopes to raise around US\$ 15,000,000 through sales of shares on the NASDAQ New York stock exchange. What is not known is who did award the licence to Mr. O'Brien (Radio World).

COMMUNICATOR

In our previous issue we carried a detailed report about Holland FM's plans concerning the MV Communicator. Just in time to enclose in this very issue the latest news reached us. Friday June 3rd the ship was officially bought by Gero Vonk, one of the key-figures behind the Holland FM operation. The ship's skeleton has been rejected. Monday June 13th major maintenance was carried out in the dry-dock in Lisbon. The fact things didn't proceed earlier is caused by serious legal grounds: the former owner had still to deal with creditors which had to be bought out. Holland FM refused to buy the ship until these problems were solved. According to our source the ship has been bought for more than f 100,000.

On the ship was only one antenna tower which will be taken off the ship. Two new masts will be erected instead. Brandnew generators will be installed as well. In contrast with earlier reports the studios will be equipped in Lisbon. The 22 kW strong transmitter will be installed after the ship has arrived in Dutch waters. The transmitter has been ordered. The Communicator which once was painted in red will be repainted in the colours of the national flag: red, white & blue. August 15th Holland FM hopes to commence trms aboard the Communicator from a location in the IJsselmeer. Former Caroline Peter Chicago has been approached to carry out engineering work on the ship.

MISCELLANEOUS

Charlie Wolfe. Remember that name? Ofcourse you do! It's 10 years ago since Charlie's debut on the European airwaves. May 1984 marked the start of a very exciting radio station: Laser 558. And Charlie surely always was the life and soul on the MV Communicator. His *inimitable* way of presentation attracted a large following in those days and Laser became very popular. After leaving Laser 558, Charlie worked for the Irish mega power station Atlantic 252 where he did the morning stint. Just over a year ago Charlie put a stop to his broadcasting career on Atlantic 252. Recently Charlie returned on British radio on ZGWR FM, presenting the 6- 10pm slot on weekdays.

Peter Philips will soon get married. Former caroline colleague Stuart 'Nigel' Russell will be playing on the church organ....

Kevin Turner used to be Peter Philips' colleague on the Ross Revenge and was for instance on the ship at that memorable night the giant 90 metre tall antenna tower collapsed. Nowadays Kevin is programme-controller on Spire FM. Spire FM have been voted local station of the year during the annual Sony Award presentation. Well done Kevin!

May 20th Anglia TV started filming a documentary which will be broadcasted later this year. The filming is closely connected with the book 'Pop went the Pirates' written by Keith Skues. Guests in this documentary will be the Fortunes, Dave Berry, Brian Poole, Keith Martin, Mark Roman, Andy Archer, Tony Blackburn, Johnny Walker and Mike Ahearn.

Former Radio Northsea Int. jock **Mark**



Wesley is now working on the Channel Isles on Island FM. Mark presents from Mon-Fri drivetime. Former Caroline man John Tyler has left Island FM and joined BBC Radio Guernsey.

Steve Masters used to be part of Laser 558's very first presenting team. He left the station already after a few months. Nowadays he's hosting a show on Live-105 in Cupertino, California, USA. Don't confuse him with another Steve Masters who was on Caroline!

Who does remember the name of Peter van Dam?? He was one of the most popular deejays on Radio Mi Amigo back in 1974. In May Peter joined 675 Radio 10 Gold. He's presenting a two hour programme each Sat & Sun between 16.00-18.00 CEST. After all those years he has certainly remained a radio personality!

Former Veronica ship MV Norderney has moved to Northern Germany. The ship had a mooring in Groningen. The current owner is planning to use the ship as a floating discotheque in Leeuwarden,

capital of Dutch province Friesland. However: the local authorities refuse to grant a licence. The Norderney owner is undertaking legal court action against this decision. In the mean time German discotheque owner Peter Saelzer saw the ship (by coincident) in Groningen at the moment it was reconstructed. Sälzer, who was also reconstructing his own discotheque and got the idea to use the ship temporarily until the work on his discotheque was finished. April 18th the Norderney arrived at its new mooring in Emden. Salient detail: it was in Emden where the first Veronica ship- the MV Borkum Riff- was converted into a floating radio vessel. The world can sometimes be very small. By the way: the ship will be used in Emden for a 6-8 week period.

Looking at the number of people attending the annual Dutch offshore meeting, one can say was a success. At least some 300 people showed up in Utrecht. The meeting is getting an international flavour as more and more German radio friends

are being noted at the meeting. But also English and Belgian radio enthusiasts! Keith Skues was one of the guests. He was very happy with the interest which seems to be much greater compared with similar meetings in England. Keith promoted his new book "Pop went the Pirates" (An Illustrated History of Pirate Radio) which could become a new offshore standard book. The book contains some 540 pages (!!) with many great black/white photos. This book is a must to every offshore radio enthusiast. Keith also pays attention to landbased pirate radio although the main part is covering offshore radio from the early 60s till the early 1990s. Keith dedicates the book 'to the millions of loyal people who listened to the offshore radio stations between 1964 and 1967. And to the disc jockeys and staff who worked for them. It was a magic era the like of which it is doubtful we shall experience again in our lifetime.'

Joop Ter Zee's ALTERNATIVE (fucking) THOUGHTS

Yes ** Been a long time ** Back again talking about the backyard of RADIOLAND ** Where it's all happening ** Sometimes * You, as a reader, might think things are allways on the (fucking) SUNNY SIDE here, in radioland ** not * There are heavy WP problems overhere and over there (Verbruggens) *** It's like, we gonna throw up and all that ** Try to get that out of ya toetsenbord **

Now some of you might think that I'm allways on holiyday, because my column is not all that often in this MAG ** And I write about it a lot ** This is not true, of couse' ** But I'm leaving this (fucking) friday ** Suitcase will contain (again) more tapes than untherware ** Check it out dudes: this time I'm taking a jingle-tape with me, how bout zat? ** Yes * The Greek are getting their own sampled jingle-set ** It's the fastest package I ever produced ** It's so fucking fast that I worked myself into great diffuculties using it with non-auto cue CD players ** Can ya follow me? ** But the Zee-man likes a challenge now and zen ** These days all my jingle-stuff is comming from MD, but I rather don't take the chance of NOT finding a player in Greece ** They'll think the disc is a fucking credit-card *** Wow ** Reminds me of a visit to a diskotheque (thiscoteque) ziskotek in Cyprus ** I came to dance ** Yes! **

And I did * The dance-floor was ROUND so I only ran round the floor, inspired by Jimmy 'bo' Horne, dance across the floor ** Yes! ** When I retired I was so fucking dizzy that I fell on my fucking face *** Yes * That's a chill-out allright *** Anyway, I made one 'goed voornemen' this time: no more fucking ouzo ** That makes your kitchen stop cooking!! ** Unless ya want to experience the feeling of wanting to move on, but ya legs wont do the fucking job ** Now back (?) to the radio-scene ** Did you know good' ol' Verbruggen was on national TV in Holland **? * Yes! *** The radio dude goes TV ** FTVSH ** Yo know, it's fucking strange but every time I go on holiday, there is just that wan (1) one record that keeps in my fucking mind ** Mostley it becomes (for me that is) a holiday hit ** Last time it was 'Sweet harmony' from the Beloved ** Dis time it seems to be 'Dwan Penn, you don't love me' ** You see, readers, that's it wis muzak, it's the ambience that makes the difference, the fucking ambience in wich you listen to the muzak ** Like now, the fucking rain is falling from the FRSH-sky and it makes no fucking difference wot bloody music yo play *** Now, that's it for now **** Keep it cool and relax ** Till (fucking) next time *** Ze Zee - man \$\$

73'S

And all that stuff

FRS SATELLITE TELEX

DX-BROADCASTS

Because more and more new radio stations are to be heard via the satellite airwaves, there are also a number of interesting programmes covering the world of media. For those having satellite equipment the following info could be useful:

Deutschland Radio in Berlin (formerly known as DS-Kultur) has a DX Show every Friday evening 22-23 hours CEST on 177 kHz long wave. The world of SW is mainly covered but also a bit of free radio and satellite news.

MDR-Sputnik produces a weekly show entitled 'MDR-Sputnik-DX-Club'. The show runs every Sat afternoon from 12-15 hours CEST. Much info about the international media scene, technical features and also (in most shows) at 13.10 CEST satellite news. MDR can be received on the Astra satellite and broadcasts via the 7.38/7.56 MHz audio subcarriers of MDR TV on 11.111 GHz/ H.

Country Music Radio is to be heard with its weekly TESUG show starting every Sat just after 17.00 hours CEST. This programme is mainly aimed at satellite enthusiasts. CMR makes use of the Sky Sports transponder on Astra at 11.508 GHz/ V subcarrier 7.38 MHz.

Latest news: once they were sister-stations: Quality Europe FM and Quality Country Music Radio. QEFM pulled out because of financial problems. That was a few months ago. Q-CMR continued and changed its name into **Country Music Radio**. Since Sat June 11th this message was to be heard on CMR's audio subcarrier: "We regret the interruption of service. Country Music Radio is currently unavailable." In other words: also CMR has ceased its satellite broadcasting adventure because of financial problems...

Deutschlandfunk can be heard with a weekly Sat media show between 17- 18 hours CEST. No further info but according to reports this is a well-produced and interesting show. Deutschlandfunk is to be heard on Astra via the 3-SAT TV audio transponders 7.38/7.56 MHz..

Radioropa broadcasts a weekly Dx-corner Sun evenings between 22.00- 23.00 CEST. This programme- called DX-Report- contains free radio news, satellite news (22.50), the media scene and SW news. An almost weekly item is a listing of loggings from hobby pirates which have been noted on SW the previous Sunday. Listeners can play an active role: they can leave their message/report via a

special telephone info-line. Quite regularly brief extracts are played in the show. A disadvantage is the fact that the programme is interrupted by newsreports at 22.15, 22.30 and 22.45 CEST. This makes listening less enjoyable. On the other hand: because of the variety of news, the programme is worth while to listen to. Radioropa can be found on Astra via the 11.406 GHz/V TV transponder of Pro-7. Audio subcarriers at 7.74/ 7.92 MHz.

Also on Radioropa on a monthly basis a programme called 'Medien Info' (Media Info). This programme is broadcasted on a Tuesday evening at 22.00 or 23.00 CEST (we have to find out about the exact info).

Radio Netherlands World Service presents every Thursday one of the most respected and popular media p's to be heard on SW/ satellite: 'Media Network'. Since a while this programme is on satellite because RNW is being relayed via the World Radio Network. To hear Jonathan Marks in crisp clear audio, you should tune in to the WRN on the Astra, the MTV TV transponder on 11.538 GHz/ V audio subcarrier 7.38 MHz. Every Thursday at 18.30 CEST RNW starts its satellite broadcast with 'Newslines' followed by Media Network. A must for every keen radio enthusiast. Media Network covers the whole media scene.

NEWS in BRIEF

Radio 538 has obviously chosen for a European approach after the station failed to obtain a licence for terrestrial broadcasts in the Netherlands. There is even a chance the station will become a foreign venture: Lex Harding has calculated that running Radio 538 under a foreign flag will be much cheaper compared with 538's current status as a Dutch radio



station. Another indication 538 is developing an European profile is the fact commercials are to be seen on MTV. On page 538 of MTV's TeleText service the complete programme schedule is to be seen. Because of the strong ties between Radio 538 and Sky Radio it seems likely Radio

538 could become an English station.

Provisionally Harding is awaiting the result of a legal procedure regarding the refusal of a terrestrial frequency. If the judge confirms the decision of Secretary d'Ancona Radio 538 will go abroad. The major financial gain of this move will be that the station doesn't have to pay a contribution to the owners of the cable networks. A domestic station has to pay 5 cents for each connection. More than 3 million households can receive Radio 538.

Ascension Day, Thursday May 12th, saw the second edition of the 'Hemelse 100', an all time top 100 chart compiled via listeners' entries. Some 18,000 youngsters participated. The top 10 was as follows: 1) Everything I do (Bryan Adams) ** 2) Total Eclipse of my Heart (Bonny Tyler) ** 3) Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen) ** 4) November Rain (Guns 'N' Roses) ** 5) Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin) ** 6) Losing my Religion (REM) ** 7) Sweet Child of mine (Guns 'N' Roses) ** 8) Paradise by the Dashboardlight (Meatloaf) ** 9) Kayleigh (Marillion) ** 10) Alive (Pearl Jam).

Radio 538 is in fact the reincarnation of Radio Veronica and broadcasts in superb stereo on Sky One's 7.74/ 7.92 MHz audio subcarriers. Sunday May 29th Radio 538 celebrated a special birthday: the station existed 538 days!

Holland FM has plans to commence



broadcasts in stereo. Presently the station is making use of the 7.56 audio subcarrier of The Movie Channel (11.479 GHz/ V). Holland FM is hoping to use the 7.38/ 7.56 audio subcarriers on the RTL-V TV transponders. Up till now this transponder carries no signals from radio stations.

There are strong rumours that Holland FM and Happy RTL Radio are seriously negotiating about a merger. Happy RTL Radio wasn't assigned a terrestrial frequency and not too long ago the "experi-



mental" FM broadcasts in De Hague were ended. The current ratings aren't very promising. Holland FM will soon be on AM with 22 kW from the MV Communicator.

Radio Xanadu, the German commercial satellite station based in Munich has been renamed. Since early June the station calls itself **ENERGY MUNICH**. The station broadcasts digitally via the Kopernikus satellite on 12.625 GHz (DSR).

RTE I, the Irish national radio station, can now be heard via MTV's TV transponder (11.538 GHz/H), audio subcarrier 7.56 MHz. On the same transponder on 7.38 MHz World Radio Network is active and on 7.92 MHz Irish Satellite Radio.

Radio Nashville is a new radio station which is to be heard on Astra via the CMT-Discovery TV transponder on 11.082 GHz/H, audio subcarrier 7.38 MHz. It must be clear what format is on the station: country & western.

Radio Orient is a new station in the ever-changing world of satellite. The station appeared on the MBC TV 7.38/ 7.56 audio subcarriers on the Eutelsat II-F1 satellite at 13 degrees east.

Once they were sister-stations: Quality Europe FM and Quality Country Music Radio. QEFM pulled out because of financial problems. That was a few months ago. Q-CMR continued and changed its name into **Country Music Radio**. Since Sat June 11th this message was to be heard on CMR's audio subcarrier: "We regret the interruption of service. Country Music Radio is currently unavailable." In other words: also CMR has ceased its satellite broadcasting adventure because of financial problems...

Retail Broadcast Services is to be heard on the 7.38 audio subcarrier of Wire TV on the Intelsat 601 at 27.5 degrees west. CMT Europe TV (11.515/ V) relayed US station Nashville 95 FM on its 7.38 audio subcarrier. Nashville 95 FM is aiming at a 24 hour a day service via cable networks for the European audience.

675 Radio 10 Gold, one of Holland's most popular commercial radio stations, is intending to publish its own magazine. The station, which started terrestrial broadcasts in January on 675 AM, hopes to intensify ties with its listening audience according to programme controller Tom Mulder. The magazine will contain inter-

views with deejays and popstars regularly to be heard on the station. "Everything you hear on the station can be read in the magazine" according to Tom Mulder. The Radio 10 Group (=675 Radio 10 Gold, Concert Radio & Love Radio) will publish the magazine on it's own. That same Tom Mulder recently celebrated a special jubilee: his 25th anniversary as a deejay. Tom started on Veronica in May 1969. In the mean time he is 47. "Presenting radio shows is my passion" Mulder says. Every day he presents the 10.00-14.00 CEST show on 675 Radio 10 Gold. Mulder is a radio enthusiast in heart and soul. He has a fantastic private radio tape archive. Many of his former colleagues were invited to participate in the celebrations which took place late May.

Digimusic is the name of a new Dutch initiative aimed at the European market. Publishers Koninklijke Pers and Holland Advertising and telecommunications company Proflin have joined hands. They bring a satellite delivered 24 hours a day non-stop music service consisting of a mix of easy listening and adult contemporary. The name digimusic was chosen because the music is digitally delivered to its customers. At present more than 2 million Dutch cable subscribers have access to the new station. Within a few months this figure could increase with another million. Unique is that for cable utilization, listeners are able to watch the play-list via Teletext. Apart from the cable networks receiving and relaying the signal, listeners having a private receiving system can receive the signal directly from the Eutelsat II-F1 satellite (provided you have a digital receiver!).

THE OLDIES STATION

Just before we went to the printer, we were informed about a new commercial satellite radio station which will be operating under the name **THE OLDIES STATION**. Satellite broadcaster Euro Jazz which can be heard via a great number of cable networks in the Netherlands isn't very successful. The financial basis for a 24 hour a day Jazz station in the Netherlands is too small. Sky Radio managing-director Ton Lathouwers started talks with Euro Jazz. The jazz station won't disappear but will continue with pxs between 19.00-07.00 CEST. Between 07.00- 19.00 hours the new Oldies Station will take over Euro Jazz' air time. It's not a secret that d Sky Radio is heavenly involved.

Sky (and also Radio 538) is transmitting from the same studio building in Bussum. The jocks who will be hosting the programming are coming from Radio 538 and Sky Radio: Peter Teekamp (Caroline, Tros, currently music producer on Sky), Will Luikinga (Veronica, currently on Radio 538) and....Stan Haag (Radio Mi Amigo). Two former Radio 3 jocks- Meta de Vries and Wim van Putten- complete the line-up. Stan Haag may be a surprise: he must be over 70 now!! The Oldies Station will start July 1st and its format consists of oldies. In this respect the new station will be competing with 675 Radio 10 Gold. We heard that The Oldies Station's format will aimed at 35+ aged people. According to programme-controller Peter Teekamp it will be the first real Dutch oldies station. "675 Radio 10 Gold also plays oldies but also quite a number of 80s hits and recent hits. We are not playing any records older than 1975. And that's unique for the Netherlands." A disappointment is that The station's signal is a digitally delivered satellite signal similar to Radio 10 Gold's one. That means that individuals owning a private system cannot receive the station's signal. A very expensive special (digital) receiver is required. Luckily most of Holland's cable networks distribute Euro Jazz thus also distributing The Oldies Station. Stan Haag who once was a popular Veronica and Mi Amigo presenter, will return on the radio with his popular 'Jukebox' programme. The programme schedule:

07.00	Peter Teekamp
09.00	Meta de Vries
11.00	Will Luikinga
14.00	Peter Teekamp
15.00	Wim van Putten
18.00	Non-stop music
18.00	Stan Haag

SKY RADIO

Sky Radio is seriously considering the idea of expanding its services abroad. To achieve this goal, managing-director Ton Lathouwers has engaged Paul Rusling who doesn't work anymore for Classic FM. He's currently investigating what the possibilities are for Sky Radio. Sky is very interested to 'penetrate' into Germany. Individuals can receive Sky's Astra signal but the station is aiming at major cable networks abroad □



SW SURVEY

The SIO's are for the UK and the continent respectively. In case there's no SIO at all, the station was only to be received in Scandinavia.

SATURDAY MARCH 26th 1994

3905	09.45	Daiwa	---	3
3910	19.00	Daiwa	---	333
3910	23.32	Pirana	---	343
3913	09.48	Moonlight	---	333
3915	23.55	Pirana	---	333
6220	12.40	WGAS	---	343
6225	10.29	WGAS (?)	---	243
6295	10.16	Radio Caroline	555	243
6910	10.53	Dublin	1--	---
7125	12.20	Francis Drake	---	444
7294	11.40	Perfekt	---	444
7294	12.00	Europe	---	444

SUNDAY MARCH 27th 1994

3905	00.47	WGAS	---	222
3910	15.01	Reflections	1--	---
3915	00.06	Pirana	---	333
3915	00.10	Sierra Foxtrot	---	232
3915	00.11	Starshine	---	333
3915	00.15	Pirana	---	433
3925	23.32	Pirana	---	343
6205	09.18	Unid	---	353
6205	15.00	Reflections	555	---
6207	09.18	Unid (Dutch)	444	444
6210	09.36	Unid	---	131
6210	09.42	Ozone	343	343
6220	09.48	WGAS	343	343
6229	09.16	Jolly Roger R.	1--	333
6234	10.00	Britain Radio	232	444
6239	11.58	Unid	---	222
6240	10.02	Jolly Roger R.	242	---
6254	11.00	Pirana	---	343
6295	09.30	Caroline	444	343
6516	07.57	Unid	---	232
6557	09.15	Brigitte	---	443
6911	10.35	Dublin	242	442
7294	07.50	Europe	---	444
7294	09.18	Perfekt	---	444
7294	10.40	Marabu	---	444
7360	10.00	Britain	---	343
7380	07.50	Idea Radio	---	333
7479	08.30	Radio Benelux	---	242

FRIDAY APRIL 1st 1994

(GOOD FRIDAY)

3905	23.54	Subterr. Sounds	---	444
3925	22.37	Starshine Radio	---	243
6230	10.28	Unid	---	243
6232	11.55	Fake R. Starsh.	---	343
6279	09.45	Ozone	---	322
6282	08.00	V. of Germany	---	333
6285	08.27	Starclub Radio	---	353

6285	13.05	Fake R. Starsh.	---	433
6293	12.24	Unid	---	---
6295	10.44	Unid	343	443
6295	13.15	Radio Caroline	---	242
6300	12.00	Radio Orion	---	433
7380	13.15	Idea Radio	---	333
7457	11.30	Pandora (?)	---	322
7484	11.32	Waves	---	232

SATURDAY APRIL 2nd 1994

3905	00.00	Subterr. Sounds	---	443
3910	22.55	Unid	---	333
3915	22.52	Starshine Radio	---	243
6220	09.44	Optimod	-1	222
6295	09.45	Radio Caroline	-1	333
6911	08.00	Radio Dublin	---	---
7125	11.13	Int.Music Radio	---	253
7294	07.55	Radio Europa	---	---
7380	07.50	Idea Radio	---	---
7385	00.30	Xerox	---	243
7415	05.47	N.A.P.R.S.	---	232
7473	10.30	Waves	---	333
7480	09.06	Unid	---	253

SUNDAY APRIL 3rd 1994

(EASTER SUNDAY)

3905	23.55	Unid	---	222
6205	12.10	Black Eagle	---	253
6210	10.30	Ozone	---	232
6220	08.45	WGAS	---	322
6225	09.35	Laser Hot Hits	---	333
6229	08.30	Jolly Roger R.	---	222
6255	09.15	East Coast Com.	---	333
6259	10.15	Unid	---	222
6270	10.50	Safari	---	333
6277	09.50	Ozone	---	322
6285	08.44	V. of Germany	---	233
6295	09.58	Radio Caroline	-1	333
6400	08.35	Angel FM	---	222
6911	10.00	Dublin	---	443
7294	08.10	Radio Europe	---	444
7373	09.30	Waves	---	322
7380	08.05	Idea Radio	---	333
7473	09.20	Dr.Tim	---	333

MONDAY APRIL 4th 1994

(EASTER MONDAY)

3905	15.20	Subterr. Sounds	---	232
6220	08.20	WGAS	---	322
6229	10.05	Jolly Roger R.	---	232
6255	11.55	Pirana	---	333
6270	09.13	Crazy Wave R.	-1	222
6290	13.35	XTC	---	343
6295	11.25	Unid	---	232
6400	09.00	Optimod	---	222
6400	10.10	Angel radio	---	232
6911	10.00	Dublin	---	333
7294	07.35	Radio Europe	---	444

7380	07.05	Idea Radio	---	333
7441	08.50	Waves	---	443
7484	08.55	Waves	---	322

SATURDAY APRIL 9th 1994

3905	22.30	Starshine Radio	---	---
3905	22.46	Subterr. Sounds	---	443
3910	22.55	SMR	---	---
6295	07.53	Radio Caroline	1--	333
7125	11.03	Int. Music Radio	---	444

SUNDAY APRIL 10th 1994

3910	00.05	Sierra Foxtrott	---	---
3910	00.07	Starshine Radio	---	---
3910	00.33	Shiny Star R.	---	---
3910	00.35	Japanes SW RS	---	---
6200	09.03	Int. Music Radio	343	---
6200	11.50	Radio Delta	343	---
6205	16.50	Reflections	1--	---
6210	10.56	Ozone Radio	---	322
6229	11.58	Jolly Roger R.	242	222
6285	10.57	Southern M.R.	---	443
6295	11.57	Radio Caroline	232	433
6399	09.45	Angel Int.	---	232
7294	09.45	Radio Europe	---	444
7415	00.20	Starshine Radio	---	---

SATURDAY APRIL 16th 1994

3905	22.25	Unid	---	---
3910	22.31	Radio City	---	---
3910	23.54	Unid	---	---
3915	23.27	Radio Strasburg	---	---
6295	12.35	Radio Caroline	252	---
7125	11.50	R. Casablanca	---	444

SUNDAY APRIL 17th 1994

3910	15.00	Reflections e	454	---
6205	15.16	Reflections	353	---

SATURDAY APRIL 23rd 1994

6210	12.38	Jolly Roger R.	343	---
6911	09.00	Dublin	353	443
7125	11.30	Fantasy SW	---	444
7294	09.00	Radio Europe	---	444
7380	08.45	Radio Marabu	---	333
7385	05.33	N.A.P.R.S.	---	111

SUNDAY APRIL 24th 1994

3910	15.01	Reflections	-1	---
3920	08.39	Radio Jimmy	---	343
3921	08.23	Radio Daiwa	---	333
6205	09.25	Radio KAOS	232	322
6205	15.30	Reflections	444	---
6210	11.09	Ozone Radio	242	232
6213	10.22	Unid	---	232



6216 09.40 Radio Select---333
 6220 08.03 FRSH 343 432
 6225 09.42 Ozone Radio 232 ---
 6233 08.20 Speranza --- 232
 6234 10.20 Unid --- 232
 6235 09.23 Jolly Roger R. 343 ---
 6235 10.43 Britain Radio --1 ---
 6240 08.15 Unid (BIRS?) --- 333
 6257 09.50 XTC 242 444
 6260 09.09 Pirana --- 444
 6282 07.55 Waves --- 333
 6282 08.03 Crazy Wave R. --- 333
 6285 11.10 Safari --- 333
 6295 09.02 Caroline 454 343
 6558 09.04 Brigitte --- 322
 6911 09.00 Dublin 352 444
 7294 08.00 Radio Europe --- 444
 7380 08.25 Idea Radio --- 333
 7380 09.06 Marabu --- 222
 7419 08.08 FRSH --- 343
 7457 09.32 Pandora --- 222
 7480 09.46 Radio Benelux 343 ---
 12265 16.07 Reflections --- ---

SATURDAY APRIL 30th 1994

6220 09.43 WGAS 454 ---
 6229 08.36 Jolly Roger R. 454 ---
 6295 08.32 Radio Caroline 343 ---

SUNDAY MAY 1st 1994

3913 08.54 R. Moonlight --- 232
 3915 18.08 Unid --- 222
 3920 16.57 Radio Meteor --- 222
 3932 17.40 R. Moonlight --- 222
 6205 15.00 Reflections 555 433
 6207 08.40 Level 48 --- 322
 6210 09.54 Kiss FM 454 232
 6210 10.20 Ozone Radio 555 232
 6220 12.48 WGAS 454 ---
 6217 08.49 Radio Select --- 323
 6229 09.35 Jolly Roger R. 444 322
 6229 10.55 Radio Marabu 444 222
 6233 09.00 Radio Speranza --- 222
 6238 11.20 Radio Pacman --- 443
 6248 08.18 Transatlantic R. 444 444
 6251 07.50 Level 48 --- 333
 6255 09.05 Optimod 454 ---
 6255 09.56 East Coast Com. 555 ---
 6270 08.10 Level 48 --- 444
 6280 10.21 Geronimo 555 222
 6282 08.00 Level 48 --- 333
 6291 08.58 Level 48 --- 444
 6295 08.02 Radio Caroline 232 343
 6300 11.25 Radio Orion --- 222
 6400 09.02 Radio Tornado --- 444
 6556 11.18 Radio Brigitte --- 444
 7294 08.00 Radio Europe --- 444
 7380 08.00 Idea Radio --- 433
 7380 08.55 Radio Marabu --- 322

7420 17.40 Idea Radio --- 433
 7515 18.20 Unid --- 222

MONDAY MAY 2nd 1994

6220 11.38 WGAS 454 ---
 6229 11.37 Marabu --1 ---
 6229 12.10 Jolly Roger R. --1 ---
 6240 09.24 Unid --1 ---
 6295 09.01 Laser Hot Hits 555 ---

SATURDAY MAY 7th 1994

3905 17.45 Black Eagle --- ---
 3905 17.50 Starshine R. --- ---
 3920 22.05 Starshine R. 333 ---
 3935 23.07 Radio Jimmy --- ---
 3935 23.20 Sierra Foxtrot --- ---
 3935 23.24 Starshine R. --- ---
 3935 23.32 Wave Radio Int. --- ---
 3935 23.45 Juliet Romeo G. --- ---
 7125 11.05 R. Casablanca --- 443
 7294 09.02 Radio Europe --- 444

SUNDAY MAY 8th 1994

3915 00.17 Radio Fusion --- ---
 6205 15.01 Reflections --1 ---
 6210 10.25 Ozone Radio 444 343
 6229 08.40 JRR --- 332
 6233 09.19 Radio Speranza --- 242
 6257 10.36 Radio Pirana 242 222
 6270 07.44 Level 48 343 ---
 6282 08.09 Unid --1 ---
 6303 10.10 FRS London --- 343
 6910 08.40 Radio Dublin --- 333
 7294 08.25 Radio Europe --- 322
 7415 08.01 Radio Fusion --- 343
 7470 09.05 Discotech Radio --- 343
 7480 08.29 Level 48 454 444

SATURDAY MAY 14th 1994

3905 23.00 Subterr. Sounds --- 333
 3905 23.45 Sierra Romeo --- 333
 3910 22.12 Radio City --- ---
 3912 21.13 Radio Pacman --- ---
 3910 22.44 Unid --- ---
 3915 22.50 Radio Pirana --- 333
 3945 23.05 Radio Pacman --- 252
 6229 08.36 JRR --- 222
 6233 09.15 R. Speranza --- 222
 7125 11.25 R. Franc. Drake --- 444
 7294 07.44 Radio Europe --- 444

SUNDAY MAY 15th 1994

3910 00.15 Starshine R. --- ---
 3912 00.30 Radio Pacman --- ---
 3915 00.15 R. Moonlight --- ---

3915 00.28 Starshine R. --- ---
 3915 01.27 R. Delta Bravo --- ---
 3920 01.47 R. Delta Bravo --- ---
 6205 15.02 Reflections 454 ---
 6210 10.21 Ozone 454 232
 6220 09.55 Unid --- 222
 6229 09.58 Jolly Roger --1 ---
 6233 07.45 R. Speranza --- 232
 6270 08.26 Crazy Wave R. --- 243
 6280 10.27 Good Music R. 444 333
 6290 10.50 XTC 232 ---
 7141 08.05 Radio Italia --- 533
 7294 07.55 R. Europe --- 444
 7294 09.20 Sunshine R. --- 444
 7294 10.12 Radio Marabu --- 444
 7415 10.30 Unid --- ---

SATURDAY MAY 21st 1994

3910 22.10 Starshine R. --- 242
 3910 23.10 R. Pirana (fake) --- ---
 3920 23.14 Radio Jimmy --- ---
 3920 23.21 Starshine R. --- ---
 3920 23.58 Wave Radio Int. --- ---
 6210 09.56 Unid 121 ---
 6233 07.55 Radio Speranza --- 232
 6295 22.35 Radio Wahnsinn --- 343
 6295 22.43 Radio Marabu 343 343
 6295 06.45 Radio Wahnsinn 454 433
 6295 08.20 Radio Marabu 454 444
 6910 09.13 Radio Dublin 353 ---
 7294 08.55 Radio Europe --- 444

SUNDAY MAY 22nd 1994

(Whit Sunday)

3913 00.35 R. Moonlight --- ---
 3913 00.42 Starshine R. --- ---
 3913 01.00 Wave Radio Int. --- ---
 3920 01.26 Juliet Romeo G. --- ---
 3938 02.47 R. Moonlight --- ---
 3940 02.35 Live Wire Radio --- ---
 3940 02.46 Wave Radio Int. --- ---
 3945 00.45 LWR --- ---
 3945 01.10 Juliet Romeo G. --- ---
 3945 01.16 Starshine R. --- ---
 6205 14.59 Reflections 454 ---
 6206 12.20 R. Black Eagle --- 444
 6207 08.58 Nordlicht Radio --- 333
 6219 09.02 Radio AURA 454 333
 6220 08.38 Radio RFM 555 ---
 6225 23.00 Radio Action --- 343
 6229 09.03 JRR 343 232
 6233 07.20 Radio Speranza --- 232
 6285 09.56 R. Pirana (fake) 121 332
 6295 09.43 Radio Marabu 454 433
 6295 12.20 Radio Wahnsinn 454 333
 6400 08.45 Unid --- 222
 6530 12.25 Unid --- 443
 6910 10.05 Radio Dublin 121 ---
 7294 09.00 Radio Europe --- 444



7484 09.00 Radio Marabu 343 222

MONDAY MAY 23rd 1994
(Whit Monday)

6206 07.46 R. Black Eagle --- 333
6259 09.09 Unid --- 222
6270 08.10 CWR --- 222
6304 09.10 Unid (Dutch) --- 433
6911 08.30 Radio Dublin --- 343
7385 00.29 North Jersey CR --- 222

SATURDAY MAY 28th 1994

3906 23.24 Unid (French) --- 444
3910 23.00 Starshine Radio --- 322
3910 23.17 Sierra Foxtrot --- 232
3910 23.18 Wave Radio Int. --- 333
3915 23.48 R. Moonlight --- 222
3915 23.50 Starshine R. --- ---
3915 23.58 Radio Fusion --- ---
3920 23.20 R. Ridiculous --- 322
3925 22.42 Radio Pacman --- 243
3945 23.01 Subterr. Sounds --- 444
7125 11.00 Radio Joystick --- ---

SUNDAY MAY 29th 1994

3915 00.04 Starshine R. --- ---
3945 22.35 Subterr. Sounds --- ---
3945 23.20 Live Wire Radio --- ---
6205 15.35 Reflections 121 ---
6210 11.02 Ozone Radio --- 232
6225 10.58 Unid --- 121
6229 09.30 JRR --- 222
6233 08.25 Radio Speranza --- 333
6295 06.20 WGAS --- 433
6400 09.04 Angel Int. --- 343
6530 08.26 Unid --- 333
6911 08.30 Radio Dublin --- 232
7294 08.00 Radio Europe --- 444

SATURDAY JUNE 4th 1994

3925 22.41 SMR --- 342
3945 22.38 Subterr. Sounds --- 333
3945 23.25 LWR --- 343
6295 22.20 Radio Caroline --- 444

SUNDAY JUNE 5th 1994

3915 00.02 Unid --- 242
3920 15.06 Radio Meteor --- 353
3920 19.59 Radio Jimmy --- 222
3931 20.11 Radio Pacman --- 333
6205 15.27 Reflections 555 ---
6210 10.40 Ozone Radio 343 222
6229 08.26 JRR 444 343
6233 08.00 R. Speranza --- 232
6255 10.20 East Coast C. 454 232
6270 07.59 SMR --- 333

6270 08.48 CWR --- 333
6275 10.38 SMR --- 333
6276 12.38 Radio Safari --- 333
6295 09.00 Radio Caroline 454 343
6400 07.49 Angel Int. --- 232
6530 10.25 Unid --- 222
6911 07.45 Radio Dublin --- 333
7294 09.00 Radio Europe --- 333
7480 07.48 Unid 242 ---
12265 09.08 Wrekin' Radio --- 232

SUNDAY JUNE 12th 1994 *

3910 10.48 Reflections 121 ---
6205 08.35 Unid 121 ---
6205 10.45 Reflections 444 ---
6225 09.55 Ozone Radio 222 ---
6229 08.25 JRR 121 ---
6240 11.57 Ozone Radio 121 ---
6260 11.55 Unid 242 ---
6280 09.31 FRS London 242 ---
6400 09.49 Angel Int. 444 ---

CONDITIONS

Following a disastrous Easter weekend, conditions have remained to be very unreliable and unstable. Taking a *general* look at the early April-early June period, the conclusion can be no other than using the description "**appalling**". Quoting Neal West, one of our loggers: "*A complete waste of my Sunday morning*" referring at one of his Sun morning listening sessions. Of course there have been exceptions but those are few and far between. Taking a look at the loggings we received from our loyal monitoring stations, it's striking how unstable and weird things really are. One person receives station A in say fair/good quality while a second person doesn't receive station A at all. For instance in the UK we received reports for certain stations with an O=4 while other persons reported weak reception: O=2. One of the phenomenons surfacing is *long skip*. Even on low frequencies- 3.9 MHz for instance- the signal's pattern often is characterized by long hops causing a considerable *dead zone*: an area in which no signal can be heard at all because of the signal skipping that area. Things won't change until late August, early September (or even later). Then one can hope there will be an improvement. But whether this improvement will be a dramatic one remains to be seen. For the 'spiral' goes down when taking a look at the 11 year sunspot cyclus. Unconsciously the period 1984/1985 reappears when many stations-FRS-Holland

included- experienced a very discouraging series of broadcasts dominated by very poor/weird conditions. To make a quotation from the FRS logbook (early 1985): "reception seems to be pretty good in remote areas but that's not a guarantee for a good response because most listeners live within the dead zone." The only bright spot is the increased activity on 76 metres. However, 76 metres is not a substitute for 48 metres because the station's output is rather different compared with 48. While 48 metres is dominated by station's putting out musical/informative radio pxs, most 76mb users are into qso-ing. Certainly this is also an aspect of free radio but this is mainly aimed at making radio contacts, the listener's involvement is rather limited. Most likely listeners have more interest in the programming side. 41 metres hasn't been used that much lately, there have been very few stations in the 7400-7500 kHz range.

STATION NEWS

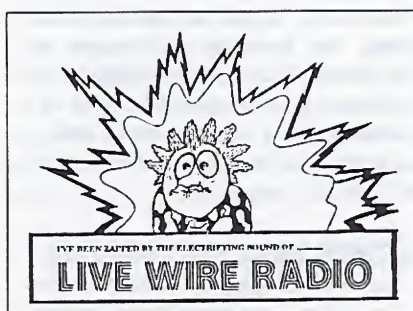
We start with **76 metres**. In the past two months a great number of stations have been heard on frequencies within the 3900-3945 kHz range. Favourite time remains the Sat evening/night. Also on Friday and Sunday evenings/nights there's activity. The following stations have been noted regularly: Radio Jimmy, Sierra Foxtrot 03, Wave Radio, Jliett Romeo Golf, Radio Daiwa, Radio Pacman, Radio Pirana, Radio Fusion, Radio Meteor, LWR and Subterranean Sounds. Most regular 76mb user was Scandinavian Starshine Radio using a commercial type vfo-controlled tx. Sporadically Starshine also pops up on 41 metres (April 10th 7415USB). Most of the 76mb output consists of qso's. Signals have also been dominated by poor conditions and long skip. Often stations were heard in Sweden in good quality while on the continent nothing could be heard.

SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS is the leading UK station when it comes to 76mb broadcasts. The word "leading" points at the activity of the station: in May the station was noted a handful of times on mainly 3945 which seems to be the favourite channel at present time. Also signal-wise Subterranean Sounds is doing a good job. Most of the time fair/good signals are to be heard on the continent. The station's programme output varies from musical and talk-based programming to qso's with colleague 76mb broadcasters.



The address is (3).

Another UK-based 76mb broadcaster is of course well-known **LIVE WIRE RADIO**. OP Bill Lewis can only put out a limited number of trms due to 'local' problems. That doesn't alter the fact LWR is the station putting out the best signals on 3.9 MHz. May 22nd LWR conducted a test on 3940 providing excellent reception in Scandinavia. In the UK and on the continent nothing was to be heard due to the propagation conditions. May 29th and June 4th LWR was noted on 3945 with



fair/good signals on the continent. Address is (2).

DISCOTECH RADIO is a new Scandinavian station which obviously has strong ties with Radio Fusion. The station was noted first on Sun May 8th on 7470 khz with hip hop/dance music. Signal quality on the continent was fine. Jolly Jake (RFI) was hosting the show and power seems to be 25W. Address is Box 33, 1751 Halden in Norway.

There aren't that many *female* presenters in SW free radio land. A new female one has joined **JOLLY ROGER RADIO** from Ireland. Her name is Clodagh and she's hosting a love song show each Sun t 10.00 UTC. It's worth writing JRR: the station has a nice info-package. Address is (4).

Our colleagues of Pirate Connection report about a new station which should take to the air in June or July: **CHAMPIONS RADIO**. It concerns a *Scandinavian* project and the station is going to be relayed via the facilities of the Swedish SW Relay Service on 6265 kHz. Pop music emphasizing on Scandinavian groups is what the main output will be.

RADIO BLACK EAGLE is another

Dutch appearance on 48/76 metres. May 7th Black Eagle was noted at 17.45 UTC on 3905. Whit Sun & Mon the station was noted on 6205 kHz with a strong, powerful signal on the continent. Strange enough we didn't get logs from our British loggers. So either the station wasn't received in the UK or was coincidentally *not* heard. The address is Box 11, 7954 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands.

RADIO FUSION INT. was heard testing on 7415 with non-stop mx May 8th. A fair signal was noted. In the night of May 7th to May 8th RFI was noted on 3915. A few other 76 mb broadcasts took place at the end of May (see logbook). Address is Media Team, Box 33, 1751 Halden in Norway.

LEVEL 48, a collaboration of a number of German stations, was very active Sun May 1st and 8th. May 1st broadcasts were noted on 6207 (loop tape via SWR), 6251 (loop tape via CWR), 6270 (SWR?), 6282 and 6291 (CWR). Most signals were heard in a fair/good quality. Trms came from different locations and thus were not parallel. One week later Level 48 was

heard on 7480, 6270 and 6282 kHz. The address is (7).

RADIO DURCHBLICK seems to be a brandnew German music pirate. May 1st the station made its debut trm via Radio Europe on 7294 kHz with a techno music format. Address is (1) (Radio von Unten).

RADIO BRIGITTE, Belgians one and only (?) SW free radio operation, seems to have acquired a brandnew rig! The station was logged at the end of April and May 1st and in particular during the latter trm a good mod was noted, much better compared with what we used to hear from Brigitte. Address is Brigitte van Gelder, Box 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands (Radio von Unten).

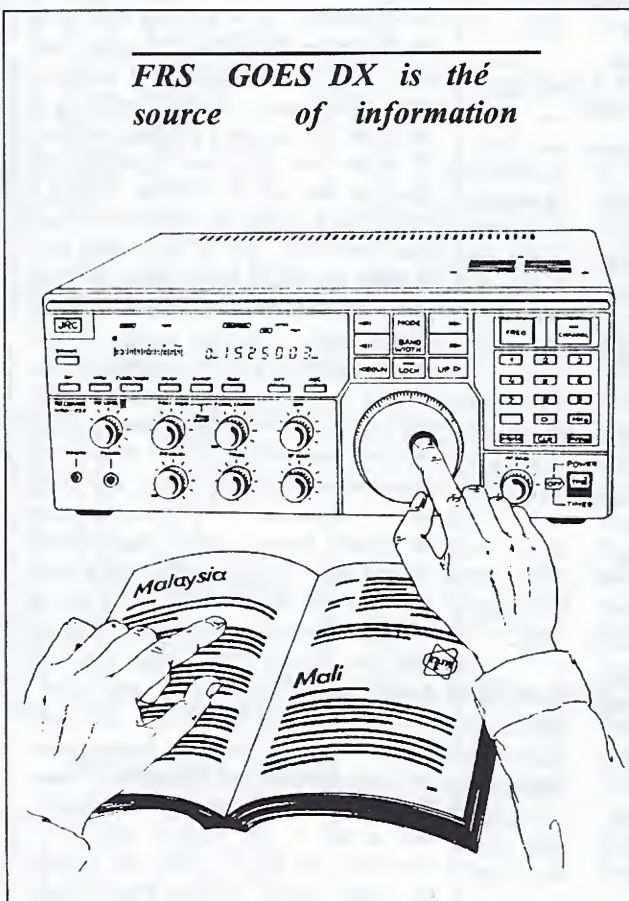
New Zealand based **KIWI RADIO** carried out a series of tests to Europe: June 4th, 5th and 6th the station was between 06.00-07.00 UTC on 7445 khz/USB and between 09.00-11.00 UTC on 7455 khz/USB. June 13th saw Kiwi between 06.00-08.00 on 7455 USB and colleague pirate *Radio G'Day* was on 7455 USB between 06.00-08.00 UTC. Next time we

hope to inform you about the results of these tests in the 41 mb. For more Kiwi news see later on in this SW Survey!

One of the stations which continues to put out trms with a certain regularity (despite the poor conditions) is UK-based station **XENON BROADCASTING COMPANY**. April 24th saw XTC on 6257 with a variable signal in the UK and a good signal on the continent. May 15th XTC was on 6290: this time the continental signal was worse compared with April. XTC can be contacted via (1).

RADIO DUBLIN has been received

FRS GOES DX is the source of information





various times with a reasonable signal. The mod quality remains to be insufficient. Problem is the audio level which is on a much too low level making the signal inaudible. It's remarkable that this has already continued for some time. Is there no engineer who'd capable of doing some modifications improving the audio?? Address is Box 2077, Dublin 8 in Ireland.

Two US stations crossed the Atlantic: April 23rd the **NORTH AMERICAN PIRATE RADIO SERVICE** was received at 05.33 UTC on 7385 kHz. Exactly a month later, May 23rd, **NORTH JERSEY COAST RADIO** was received at 00.29 UTC on the same frequency.

RADIO WAHNSINN from Germany was heard with a fair signal on 6290 in the evening hours of May 21st. The day after WGAS relayed Wahnsinn on 6295 which was free to use cause Caroline wasn't on that day. Another relay took place via Italian SW broadcaster Radio Europe on 7294 USB May 14th. Signal quality was excellent. Address is (1).

Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5PP in the UK.

RADIO ORANG UTAN hasn't been heard since February 27th. That broadcast was the only one following the raid in January. The health of Orang Utan OP Freddie leaves much to be desired and it looks like that the station's return won't take place in the near future. We'll keep you in the picture. Fact is that Orang Utan purchased a new tx capable of putting out 0.5 kW! Address is Box 114, 7040 AC 's-Heerenberg in the Netherlands. Freddie, all the best!

It looks like the 6200 broadcast of **IMR** on April 10th was via the powerful Radio Delta Ruurlo tx. The signal was heard in the UK but NOT in large parts of the continent (long skip). Later on that morning Delta was also noted on 6200 kHz. Address of IMR is Box 128, 4003 Basel in Switzerland. Radio Delta only carried out very few trms this year. Address is Box 41, 8080 AA Elburg in the Netherlands.

Holland will celebrate its 14th birthday?! Addresses: (3) & (4).

EAST COAST COMMERCIAL was noted on the usual fixed first Sundays: May 1st and June 5th saw Norman Nelson's station on 6255. May 1st Opti-mod was relayed via ECC's tx. Remarkable because in the past Norman Nelson almost never carried out relays for any station. The signal in June was rather poor on the continent (conditions). Address is K-Flats, 9-11 Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9ER in the UK.

GOOD MUSIC RADIO carried out a test broadcast on 6280 kHz Sun May 15th. One of our UK monitors reported a strong signal while reception on the continent was fair. Address: GMR, Towers, Beccles, Suffolk in the UK.

WGAS- the World's Greatest Anorak Station- carried out relays for German based Radio Marabu and Radio Wahnsinn May 21st/22nd. All trms were aired on 6295. Relays were noted in the earlier morning hours but also during the late evening. WGAS provided decent signals on 6220 kHz. late April/early May the station was four days in a row on air: between April 29th and May 2nd. It's a pity that WGAS doesn't operate with the crew of earlier this year. However, for instance Andy Walker still does a great job and the same applies to engineer Terry Philips. Address is (4).

SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO from New Zealand keeps on rocking the European SW bands. The station makes use of a handful relay stations. June 4th saw the station on 76 metres (3915/3925). 48mb broadcasts were noted too. In the recent past SMR was regularly heard over RWI' SW outlet but those days seem definitely belong to the past since Waves closed down over the Easter weekend. The following news release was received from Southern Music Radio:

"You may wonder what's happening with SMR. Well, we're not sure what's happening with the relays via BIRS as no reports have come from this relay, so they could still be off air (this is true-FRSGDX). The Swedish SW Relay Service will relay pxs in August, October, December of 1994. The first went out in April, so if you heard an unknown station on SSRS it was probably SMR. If things go according to plan, Radio Stella Int. will relay pxs in June, August, October and

THE SHORT WAVE ADDRESS LIST:

- 1 = P.O.BOX 220342/D-42373 WUPPERTAL/GERMANY
- 2 = 14 STONE ROW/ COLERAINE/ CO. LONDONDERRY BT52 1EP IN NORTHERN-IRELAND
- 3 = 32 VICTORIA RD/SALISBURY/WILTSHIRE SP1 3NG/UK
- 4 = BOX 130/92504 RUEIL CEDEX/FRANCE
- 5 = 12 DORMAN RD/ PRESTON/LANCS PR2 6AS/UK
- 6 = C/O STEFAN PRINTZ/KAMNARSVAGAN 13D:220/22646 LUND/SWEDEN
- 7 = BOX 286/5900 AJ VENLO/THE NETHERLANDS

ANGEL INT. from the UK was raided Sun April 17th at 14.30 UK time. A total of 9 men- 5 police men and 4 DTI officials- were involved in this action. All transmitting and studio equipment was confiscated. The same applies to the record collection. The DTI kept an eye on Angel for already several months but a complaint of interference proceeded them to action. Nearly 6 weeks after the raid, Angel returned on 6400 (Sun May 29th). Address is c/o Caretaker's House, Lawn

BRITAIN RADIO INT. is almost completely inactive these days. A possible reason is the very poor propagation conditions. April 24th saw BRI on 6235 with a weak signal on the continent but also in the UK. The usual 41mb signal (7360) wasn't noted that day. June marks the 14th anniversary of BRI. More than likely Roger Davis will switch to October to celebrate the birthday. Perhaps on the 4th Sun of October, a week after FRS-



December of this year.

SMR will also be relayed via SWR Switzerland. These pxs are aired over the IRRS in Italy and here are the dates when to listen:

June 18th 13.00-14.00 CEST

August 20th 13.00-14.00 CEST

October 15th 13.00-14.00 CET

December 17th 13.00-14.00 CET

Our European mailing address is (4).

In North America pxs are sent to WGBR which is part of "The Wolf Radio Network" and SMR is relayed via this network. Also pxs are being aired via CSIC plus a few other SW stations. Our North American address is SMR, Box 452, Wellsville, New York 14892 in the USA. By having two addresses it means mail can arrive here in New Zealand faster for replying. So, happy listening to SMR, the only station from Down Under to be heard regularly in Europe and North America.

RADIO NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

by a station ID. Then propagation made listening impossible.

Trying again on the 17th of April 1994 at 06.58 UTC on 7446.7 USB sure enough Kiwi was back playing pop music. As the programme was only 45 minutes long, the tape was turned over each time it came to an end and replayed again. Reception was good.

On April 24th 1994 I monitored Kiwi from 06.58 UTC on 7446.7 USB using the identification "Anzac Radio". The usual selection of pop music was played till 08.26 UTC. At 08.29 UTC the station left the airwaves. Power on 7445 was 100W and on 7446.7 USB 350W.

RADIO AURA (American University Radio) made its second SW broadcast so far on Sun May 22nd. Bulgarian music was aired. The signal on the continent was fair, better reception (0=4 in the Midlands) was reported in the UK.

The SWITZERLAND RELAYING

to be heard on 7125. As from July onwards the service will be extended with an hour: between 11.00-13.00 UTC. For more details concerning this relay service, we refer to FRSGDX 128, page 22. The address of SWR Switzerland is Box 35, CH-6027 Romerswil in Switzerland.

The following schedule is valid for the months of July up till August 6th 1994

July 2nd	Radioart
	Radio Sparks
July 9th	Radio Fantasy
	Radio Marabu
July 16th	Radio Joystick
	I.M.R.-Voice of Basel
July 23rd	Radio Francis Drake
	Calypso Radio
	Radio Hoch-Weisel Int.
July 30th	Radio Fantasy
August 6th	RadioArt
	I.M.R.-Voice of Basel

RADIO GERONIMO returned to the airwaves Sun May 1st on 6280 with a non-stop music format. As reported a while ago, Geronimo is back in the hands of Chris Watson who founded the station some time after the demise of popular Radio 48. Hopefully we may expect some programming from Geronimo in the future?! We are not 100% sure whether the French address remains in operation at present time: Box 39, 62222 St. Martin, Bologne in France. Hopefully Chris will soon inform us about Geronimo's future plans.

SW NEWS IN BRIEF

RADIO SELECT suffered QRM from WGAS Sun May 1st. Select used 6217, WGAS was on 6220 *** **IDEA RADIO** from Italy was heard on 7420 kHz late April. The station officially uses 7380 (5 kW) and 7120 (50W). German station Marabu is making use of Idea's SW txs *** **RADIO CITY** and **RADIO STRASBURG** were both noted April 16th on 76 metres. City was relayed via the Scandinavian Broadcasting Company. Both stations weren't heard on the continent. Reception was reported in Sweden. Radio City is using the Wuppertal address and is a very irregular station. The same applies to Radio Strassburg using the Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0 address *** Remember Lithuanian **RADIO TORNADO**?? The station was heard with a strong signal in the UK on 6400 kHz May 1st. Was this a relay via Angel Int. or via Dutch station Delmare?? Address is Box

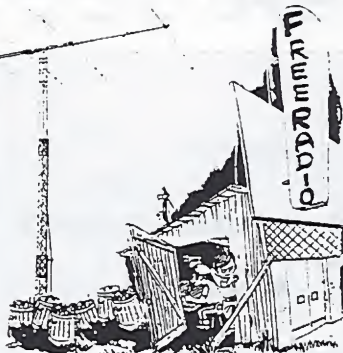
SHORT WAVE RADIO SWITZERLAND
S.W.R. SWITZERLAND
P.O. BOX 35, CH-6027 ROMERSWIL

FREE RADIO PROGRAMME NEWS

THE ONLY LEGAL FREE RADIO RELAY
SERVICE IN EUROPE IS OPERATED BY

ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE/IRRS,
PO BOX 10980, I-20110 MILANO/ITALY
AND SHORT WAVE RADIO SWITZERLAND.

EACH SATURDAY AT 1300 CET ON 7125 KHZ



PACIFIC was sent by David Miller. "I got word of KIWI being on air in April from reading the April 1994 issue of A.C.E. So I tuned in to 7445 at 05.15 UTC April 16th 1994 and sure enough it was Kiwi making a test broadcast using the identification "This is a test transmission of Radio Moraki". The other identification used was "Radio Moraki, the rock of North Otago". There was a further identification "This is a test from Kiwi" and mailing address was then given. Then the station signed off at 05.37 UTC. Reception was good. Later that night at 07.28 on 7445 Kiwi was back opening the broadcast with the bird call of a Kiwi followed

SERVICE seems to be getting very popular among German SW stations. Here's a little survey what stations were active since April: April 9th Int. Music Radio, April 16th Radio Casablanca, April 23rd Radio Fantasy SW, April 30th German's Better Music Station, May 7th Radio Casablanca, May 14th Radio Francis Drake, May 21st Radio Sparks, May 28th Radio Joystick, June 4th IMR, June 11th GMBS, June 18th Southern Music Radio and June 25th Radio Casablanca. Broadcasts take place on 7125 between 11.00-12.00 UTC with a radiated power of no less than 30 kW. Not to wonder most of the time solid signals are

The SW News section is continued on page 18

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



ENGLAND

DISAPPOINTMENT

'Gold' is the name of a new English nostalgic periodical covering the music and radio industry. It's published by well-known on air personality Tony Prince. In the first edition a story about the first months of broadcasts of Radio Caroline in 1964. Looking at the contents the magazine was a bit disappointing, not worth those six guilders one has to pay for it (FRW).

LAZER FM

Last year we carried a report about a number of people - among them Peter Moore- to obtain broadcasting licence for London. The result was a rejection. Now this Lazer group are undertaking a new attempt, this time for a licence for the Greater London area. Format: album rock. Name of the station could be Caroline instead of Lazer. We'll keep you informed.

VIRGIN: NO FM!

Despite more than half a million declarations of support, the plans of Virgin boss Richard Branson to change from AM to a nation-wide FM network, won't become reality. Branson launched a campaign to get his rock station on the FM dial. A few months ago the RA announced that the 105-108 MHz FM spectrum would become available for radio broadcasting as from 1996 onwards. Branson hoped Virgin would get frequencies within the new range of frequencies. The Radio Authority decided that the new frequencies will be allocated to new local commercial radio stations. A big disappointment for Branson and all Virgin employees.

The Radio Authority fined Virgin 1215 £ 5,000. This is the highest individual fine ever been imposed by the RA. What happened? Virgin jock Nick Abbott insulted a presenter of London newsstation LBC. In the mean time Virgin's contract with Nescafé has been extended for a three year period. Some £ 2 million is involved with this deal.

NEW STATIONS

Tuesday May 31st saw a new UK radio station testing on 1458 kHz AM. *Fortune 1458* is replacing BBC's Greater Manchester Service and will be officially launched on Monday June 20th. The station uses the slogan "*Fortune 1458, the*

biggest stars, the finest music". Output power is 5 kW.

White Cliffs Radio broadcasted for a 28 day period as a RSL station. Key-figure behind this initiative was Bob Le Roi who has his roots on Radio City. Bob also worked on Kent's Invicta Radio. In May White Cliffs Radio was to be heard in a small part of Kent using the slogan "*the 100.2 FM Sound*".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Buzz FM will be leaving for good the airwaves December 31st. The station's licence won't be extended by the Radio Authority. Earlier this year *Buzz FM* was sold by former Nova boss Chris Cary. *** *Choice FM* will be taking over *Buzz FM*'s licence but not on the same frequency. The potential audience is 1.2 million listeners *** The London-based Afro-Caribbean station *WNK* is no more. The Radio Authority withdrew the station's licence because the licence fees weren't paid following a first warning *** *RAM FM* in Derby started broadcasting in March. *XTRA AM* in Coventry disappeared from the dial and was replaced by *Mercia Classic Gold 1359*. *Trent FM* in Nottingham is now called *The New 96* *Trent FM* *** *Faze FM* from Manchester will be commencing broadcasts later this year with a dance format *** *Country 1035* will be the UK's first 24 hour a day country music radio station. The station will take to the airwaves later on this year from studio's in London town *** *Simon Bates* who was once a very popular BBC 1FM jock, has joined LBC. During weekdays he'll be hosting the 9-12 morning shift. His salary: £ 100,000 a year! *** By the way: LBC is negotiating with London News Radio. The latter will take over the licence of LBC later this year. London News Radio will be broadcasting on 1152 AM and 97.3 FM (FRW).

U.S.A.

YESTERDAY

The Beatles' 1965 single hit 'Yesterday' has been played no less than six million times on the US wireless. Since 1965 some 2500 covers were recorded, an absolute record in the music industry (FRW).

MAKING LIBRARY POPULAR

An American deejay thought up something special to promote the listeners' interest for public libraries. A.W. Pantoja,

deejay on *KYNG-FM* in Fort Worth Texas told the listeners in his programme that he had hidden \$ 10,000 in the local public library. As a result hundreds of listeners went to the library looking for the money. Several books were torn up. In the mean time the management of *KYNG FM* has promised to compensate the library for the damages. Despite this generous offer the local authorities have decided to lodge a complaint against the radio station (FRW).

DATABANK

Wiining Edge Productions & Software from Virginia has developed computer software making it possible to acquire all sort of information about the radio stations being active in the land of Uncle Sam. The info concerns the callname, frequency, format, address, telephone and fax number but also info about the station's owners and management. At least six times a year the info will be updated. This databank is only available via networks such as *Cumpuserve*, *Broadcast Professionals* and *Prodigy* (FRW).

FCC

The FCC in the USA has unveiled a new fleet of *spectrum petrol cars* to track down pirate radio stations and other illegal users of the spectrum. The Chevrolet Capri carries about US\$ 75,000 worth of location equipment built into the dashboard. The officials reckoned with three of the new cars working together, they can triangulate pirate radio stations within 5 minutes. But budget cuts in the FCC mean that for the time being the 35 field officers around the USA will only be allocated two cars each making it a bit more difficult to track down stations. The FCC says they track and find about 100 illegal trms a year. You may remember the FCC caught SW pirate broadcaster Andrew Yoder on Febr. 22nd. 1992. Andrew broadcasted from his parents'house in Springs, Pennsylvania under the name *Radio USA*. When FCC monitoring officials arrived at the house, they were refused entry but analyses of the recording made of the broadcast, identified Andrew Yoder as the presenter. The FCC rejected Yoder's appeal and ordered him to pay no less than \$ 17,500 immediately.... (Media Network).

As all of you will know, Andrew is the editor of a handful of books about pirate radio (SW) and publishes a newssheet called *Pirate Pages* published fortnightly.



Andrew is also responsible for the FRS DX column covering the USA free radio scene. We are looking forward to hearing from Andrew wishing him all the best!

RADIO FREE ASIA

The US government is setting up a new SW radio station which will become the equivalent of Radio Free Europe. The station will be concentrating on regional news and info and the signal will be beamed to a number of countries in south-east Asia including the Republic of China (Media Network).

THE NETHERLANDS

MEDIA NETWORK

Media Network, one of the most respected and popular SW media programmes recently celebrated its 12th birthday. Jonathan Marks mentioned that the Media Network team began with its 13th year!! Certainly a great achievement. Jonathan added that because of the regular flood of mail, faxes and electronic mail there were never problems filling the px with news and views. In that same px (May) Jonathan reported that the Swiss Merry Go Round, the famous DX-Show of Swiss Radio Int. is no more. It started as a technical mailbag show at a time when the current SWI was calling itself Swiss Broadcasting Company. It does not mean

that SRI will cease to broadcast a DX-Show: the title is vanishing but the Swiss Merry Go Round will be replaced by a new *Media Show*. Currently the station is restructuring its programme output. The station is looking for a new sort of appearance with a new sound, new jingles etc. It was inevitable that a px like the Swiss Merry Go Round would also be restructured. Together with this 'new face', SRI launches a 24h a day English service via the Astra Teleclub TV transponder of 11.322 GHz/H on the 7.38 MHz audio subcarrier.

COMMERCIAL NEWSRADIO

Probably Holland will get a news station in spite of all developments we reported about in previous editions. A little reminder: AM Nieuws has been assigned the 1395 kHz frequency. That frequency seemed to be inferior, especially during nighttime.

One of these days AM Nieuws will decide whether it will use this frequency. Moreover newspaper "De Telegraaf" has shown renewed interest in the current Radio 1 frequency 747. At this moment a feasibility study is carried out for a news station on this frequency.

However, Dutch Parliament will remain Radio 1 on 747, to ensure reception of the station abroad. This could be against European law, because Radio 1 is also to

be received on FM. In case 747 will be left by Radio 1 a new entrance procedure will take place. Major candidate will be Info Radio, owned (among others) by 'De Telegraaf' and publisher Strengtholt, which, on its turn, is owner of Radio Noordzee Nationaal...

By the way, some people suggest Radio Nederland Wereldomroep should broadcast via AM 747. Radio 1 could plan its programmes during prime-time, while RNW could use the other hours to transmit its English language programmes. By the way, some people suggest Radio Nederland Wereldomroep should broadcast via AM 747. Radio 1 could plan its programmes during prime-time, while RNW could use the other hours to transmit its English language programmes.

IRELAND

Two years ago the first national commercial radio station in Ireland, Century Radio, went bankrupt. Now there are serious plans to set up a brandnew commercial station with a nation-wide coverage. Three existing local stations- 98FM, FM 104 and Cork 96FM- have submitted an application to run a national commercial station. Later this summer the Independent Radio & Television Commission will make its decision.

Continuation SW News page 18 :

Box 432, 3330 AK Zwijndrecht in the Netherlands *** Talking of weird names: a station calling itself the JAPANESE SW RELAY SERVICE was noted via Swedish SW Relay Service on 3910. No signal was heard on the continent. We are awaiting test of the *Arabian SW Relay Service* real soon.... *** Dutch broadcaster TRANSATLANTIC RADIO made it on 6248 Sun May 1st. The station pops up when 'The Pope' is absent on this frequency. By the way: despite low power, the station's signal is fine. Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam is the address to write to *** Also this time a few interesting UNIDS: May 1st in the early evening music was noted on 7515 followed by a sudden sign off. During a number of May weekends non-stop *techno music* was noted on 6530 kHz. Any idea?? Drop us a line!! *** Last time we reported about a possible return of popular Dutch broadcaster RADIO TORENVALK. Since the Easter week-

end there hasn't been any sign of the station. So: was it a return or an one-off transmission?? *** REFLECTIONS EUROPE was already at 10.45 UTC on air Sun June 12th. Quite early knowing usually broadcasts are commenced at 14.00 UTC *** LASER HOT HITS put out a strong 6295 signal May 2nd, a BH Monday in the UK. Address is the Merlin, Ontario one (see Radio Strasbourg) *** Fake stations are popular these days. Was it a fake Starshine Radio being noted Easter Friday (with Kim II Sung & his golden microphone!!), May 22nd a *fake RADIO PIRANA* was noted on 6285 *** The real PIRANA remains active on 48 & 76 metres. Several pxs were noted in April and May *** German station RADIO NORDLICHT is still alive: Whit Sun a brief broadcast was heard on 6207 *** Remarkably strong signals have been noted on 7294. RADIO EUROPE based in Italy transmits in USB and regularly relays German stations such as Sunshine, Marabu and Perfect. Long

distance 41mb propagation seems to do pretty well! *** RADIO WAVES INT. was noted via German Crazy Wave Radio on 6282 Sun April 24th. Perhaps an old tape?? *** Talking of CRAZY WAVE RADIO: this station has been fairly active in April and May. Most of the time 6270 is in use with fair signals. Address is (7). CWR is also part of Level 48 *** SAFARI put out a good 6285 signal April 24th: that date was one of the positive exceptions as far as conditions is concerned. June 5th Safari was on 6276. Address is (1) *** RADIO PANDORA which was noted on 7457 April 24th is some sort of mystery station. The address is either (1) or (7). Who can help?? Perhaps the OP himself?? *** Was it the BELGIAN INT. RELAY SERVICE testing April 24th on 6240? Fact is that despite rumours the BIRS hasn't officially returned on SW

FRS GOES DX:
the MOST SW output

DUTCH OFFSHORE EXHIBITION

Friday June 3rd at 16.00 hours it was the 'godfather' of Dutch deejays, Willem van Kooten alias *Joost den Draayer*, who officially opened an unique exhibition: **the history of the Dutch language offshore radio stations.** 'FRS Goes DX' was on the spot.

At 16.00 hours a crowd had assembled in the big hall of the Dutch Omroepmuseum in Hilversum. It was not a coincident that

the Dutch authorities and their *muddled policy* concerning Dutch radio. He referred that it would perhaps become possible that people having a CD-I (interactive CD) will be able to play with pirate radio ships sometime in the future.... His salary in 1964 was f 208,- and he always called it the *great 208* thus not only referring at the salary but also to Radio Luxembourg. At the end of his speech he handed over

Radio Paradise ship and the Ross Revenge in 1989, there hasn't been that much attention on the phenomenon called *offshore radio*. Several radio stations/broadcasting societies made interviews with key-figure Hans Knot. The main TV newsbulletin at 20.00 hours showed pictures of the opening and also RTL 4 and sister-station RTL 5 covered the opening in their TV newsbulletins.

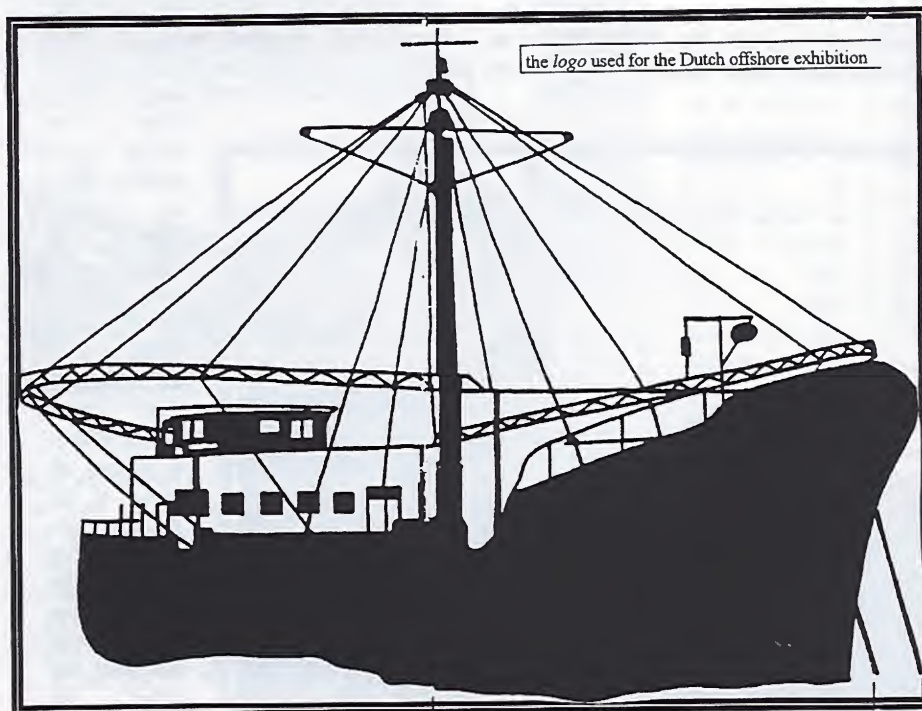
Apart from this there are/will be stories in several Dutch newspapers. National newspaper 'Het Algemeen dagblad' already carried a long article in its edition of Mon June 6uh.

THE EXHIBITION

Best known Dutch language pirates are Radio Veronica and Radio Northsea. But these are not the only stations being part of the exhibition. Radio Atlantis, Mi Amigo, Radio Condor (!), Capital Radio (with that unique antenna system), Radio Caroline (yes, there were also Dutch language pxs under the Caroline banner), Radio Dolfine, Radio 227, Radio 558, Radio 819, Radio Delmare, Radio Monique, Radio Uilenspiegel (also known as Radio Antwerp) and the famous REM island are also involved. The enormous variety of the exhibits makes it all more than worth while. To mention just a few articles on display: unique posters and stickers, T-shirts,

technical equipment (an audio mixing desk but also a complete controll room as used on the REM island), an original sailor suit which was used on the King David (Capital Radio), fantastic photos, books and record albums, transmitting tubes etc. Too much to mention! There is a lot of *written* information and visitors can *listen* to offshore extracts (for instance from Radio Uilenspiegel) and *view* interesting videos. Any dedicated offshore enthusiast must now be convinced: this exhibition is a must to visit (provided the trip is not too expensive/long).

September 4th 1994 is the last day the exhibition is open to the public. The address: Oude



of all radio personalities Willem van Kooten had the honour to open this offshore exhibition. He was it who was responsible for introducing real pop music radio in the Netherlands. In 1964 he went to the U.S.A. to take a look at the American radio situation making a deep impression on him. He returned at the Veronica studios/offices with a kilowatt of ideas. Veronica changed format: horizontal programmes and a real jingle package were introduced and last but not least: Jan. 1965 saw the first edition of the Veronica Top 40. A list of the 40 most popular (read: best sold) records. And this Top 40 became very famous in the Netherlands. Generally speaking one can say that Veronica shook off its soft format. It became a real pop music radio station, much faster that it had been in the period 1960-1964 when a MOR policy ruled the Veronica programming.

Back to Friday June 3rd. Willem made an interesting speech poking some fun with

the first sample of the brandnew double CD 'The Big Bull Verwey Interview' to....Bull Verwey, former Veronica managing-director. A fantastic moment. Then it was time for the 300 invited guests to reminisce the good old days and to take a look in the part of the museum where the exhibition was being organised. Among the guests were Ferry Eden (Mi Amigo), Jaap Verwey (member of the Veronica management in the 60s), Timmy Thomason (Capital Radio), Ferry Maat, Leo van der Goot, Alfred Lagarde, Tony Berk, Nico Steenbergen, Marc van Amstel, Bob Noakes, Rudi Kagon (all Radio Northsea Int.), Ad Bouman, Chiel Montagne, Hans van Velzen, José van Groningen & Arend Langeberg (all Veronica) and Peter de Vries (Caroline).

PUBLICITY

The opening of the exhibition and the presentation of the CD attracted quite some publicity. Since the raids on the





Amersfoortseweg 121-131, 1212 AA Hilversum. Telephone: 035-885888. Opening hours: Tues-Fri 10.00-17.00 hours and Sat/Sun 12.00-17.00 hours. At the museum you have the possibility to buy the double CD containing the Bul Verwey interview. Apart from that there's a publication which has been published by Veronica magazine. This publication is entitled 'The Voices of the Northsea' containing the history of the Dutch language offshore stations. Also interviews with several on air personalities from the Dutch offshore era and a complete survey of material which has been published on s i n - gles/albums/CDs in the past almost 35 years.

A POTTED HISTORY

In November 1959 it all started in Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam. A number of businessmen had a meeting. They wanted to promote their merchandise and fight against the monopoly of the big dealers. The VRON was born. Scandinavian offshore station Radio Mercur was a shining example and their managing-director Mr. Jensen helped the Dutch VRON men to set up an offshore station. To impress a number of potential backers, two key-figures decided to install a small medium wave transmitter in a neighbouring building trying to *win them over*. The plan succeeded, however, the Dutch RCD was on the look-out and confiscated the transmitter! April 18th 1960 the first Veronica ship Borkum Riff left the harbour of Emden and three days later Veronica (in the mean time the VRON was renamed and was now called

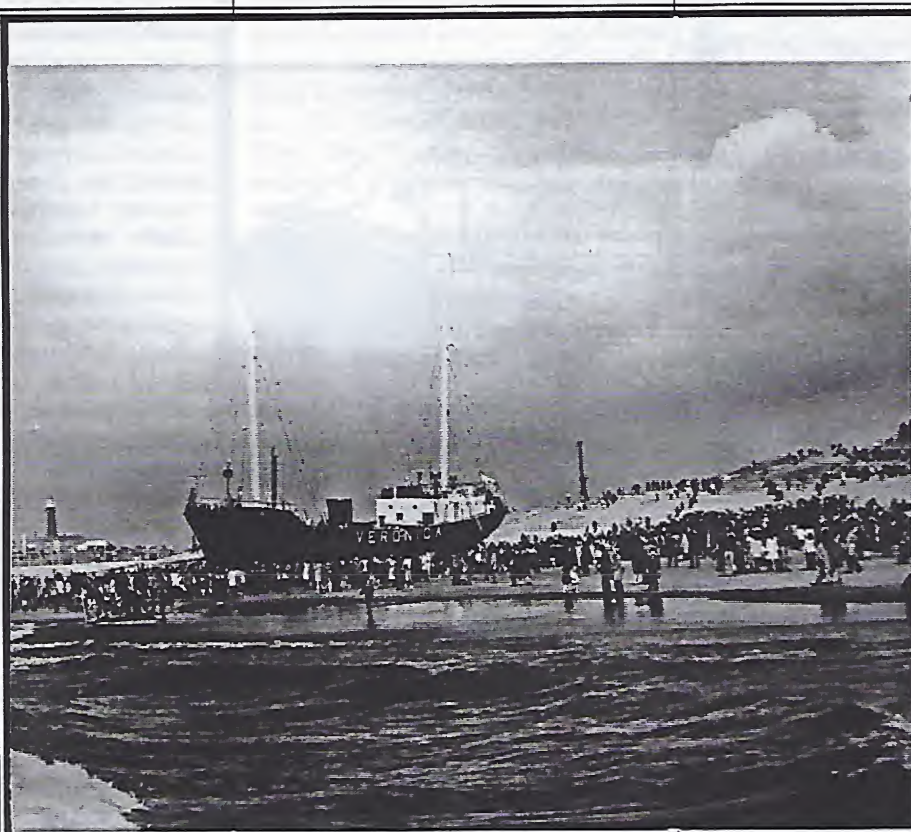
Veronica) was on the air conducting test trms. Following a tough initial period it was the year 1962 when the first profits were made. For Radio Veronica was a *commercial* venture. Bull Verwey became more and more the spokesman of the Veronica management.

In 1963 a number of Dutchmen- Cornelis Verolme and Pieter Heerema among others- decided it was time to set up a commercial radio/tv station. A artificial island was built in Cork, Ireland and the giant structure was put together off the Noordwijk coast. The REM (Radio en Exploitatie Maatschappij) was born!

new format under the influence of Joost den Draaijer (see page 1 column one of this feature). As a result several Dutch artists had an international breakthrough: Golden Earrings, Tee Set, Shocking Blue).

Veronica didn't remain the only Dutch offshore broadcaster. Because the American Laissez Faire project wasn't as successful as expected, the Americans took their chance with Dutch backers resulting in the MOR station Radio Dolfine. This station wasn't successful too and both name and format were changed: Radio 227 was born. Lex Harding who became famous on Radio Veronica and who's holding sway over Dutch commercial satellite station Radio 538, started his radio career on Radio Dolfine.

In England there were several offshore stations, all aimed at the British audience. When Radio City main man Reg Calvert was shot and killed, the British government decided to introduce the infamous M.O.A. (August 14th 1967). Radio Caroline was the only station which continued but in March 1968 both



The Veronica Ship ran aground at the Scheveningen beach back in April 1973

During a 3 month period Radio Noordzee and TV Noordzee beamed its signal into the Netherlands. The Dutch government introduced a special law making further broadcasts of the REM organisation impossible. The REM island was raided and all equipment was confiscated. The end of Radio/TV Noordzee. But: the TROS, a Dutch broadcasting society, has its origins in the REM venture.

Early 1965 Veronica introduced a brand-

ships were raided because of angry creditors. The ships ended up in the Amsterdam harbour.

In the mean time Veronica was the only offshore station or...?? In 1970 two other stations appeared: Capital Radio (an idealistic station) and Radio Northsea Int. broadcasting in German and Dutch. RNI became a serious rival for Veronica and the Veronica management paid one million guilders to Meister & Bollier on



condition that RNI would leave the airwaves and would never start a Dutch service. But: early March 1971 RNI returned under the name radio Noordzee with a Dutch service. Two Veronica people- Bull Verwey and Norbert Jurgens- decided to undertake action. Three men were hired to get the Mebo II within Dutch territorial waters. The hired men did something

introduction of the Dutch version of the M.O.A. On the day of the demonstration, April 18th 1973, Veronica was on air with even two transmitters. They got the Norderny afloat. Veronica would remain broadcasting till August 31st 1974. Also R.N.I. and radio Atlantis closed down that memorable month in 1974.

Caroline returned with an English service in 1973 and Flemish businessman Adriaan van Landschoot decided to set up an offshore station to serve the Flemish speaking community in Belgium. He leased airtime via Ronan O'Rahilly in the July-October 1973 period. He then purchased his own ship, the MV Janine, to continue with

Ross Revenge. In 1984 Dutch station Radio Monique (later on replaced by Radio 558 & Radio 819) joined Caroline on the Ross. August 1989 Dutch authorities decided to raid the Ross Revenge in cooperation with their British colleagues. All studio and transmitting equipment was confiscated. February 1993 most of the equipment was returned to Radio Caroline following negotiations..

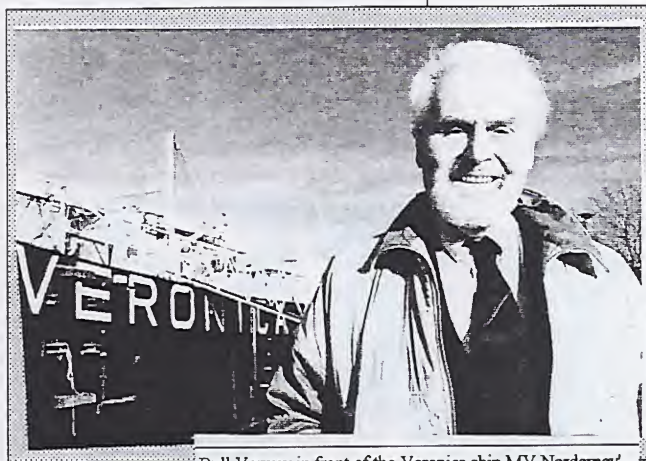
THE BULL VERWEY CD

In FRSGDX 128 there was already given some info about this true unique double CD. Total playing time is no less than 140 minutes! Hand Knot and journalist Jelle Boonsta did a few recording sessions. They interviewed 84 year old Bull Verwey for almost 15 hours! The CD is in some respect a kind of reunion: Lex Harding did the narration, Joost den Draaijer wrote the foreword. Most of the jingles and programme extracts on this CD are from Tom Mulder's (Klaas Vaak) personal sound archive. Anecdotes, stories and memories....these are the main ingredients. But not the ones to be heard on the numerous Veronica documentaries. Most intriguing is that this CD throws light upon unknown facts of the Veronica history. Facts which were never touched in books or any documentary. To keep Veronica alive, Bull Verwey had to sell two of his houses in the early days of the station. One of Veronica's arch-enemies was PTT official Mr. Neuteboom. After Veronica closed down in August 1974, the 10 kW tx was put away at Verwey's house. He regularly visited Bull's house to control the tx. They became good friends in the end.

The CD can be obtained via Stichting Media Communicatie, P.O.Box 53121, 1007 AC Amsterdam by sending 30 Dutch guilders. P&P is included in the price ☐

We'd like to thank Hans Knot for his enormous support regarding this article! The exhibition report was written by Peter Verbruggen, most other info in this article was from Hans Knot.

FRS GOES DX is the magazine with the MOST information!!



Bull Verwey in front of the Veronica ship MV Norderny anchored in the Groningen harbour. Photo: Jelle Boonstra

which was against the will of the Veronica men: they used a bomb seriously damaging the RNI ship which was on fire. Result: the Veronica people and the hired men went to jail (Bull Verwey was in jail for 12 months) and the Dutch government decided to introduce the Dutch version of the British M.O.A. It would take another three years until the new law came into force.

In the mean time Capital Radio had been forced to leave the airwaves because of setbacks. The ship lost her anchor November 10th 1970 and the engine broke down too. She ended up on the beach of Noordwijk. November 13th the Wijsmuller tug towed her clear of the beach and put in a salvage claim of £ 11,500 which was beyond the means of the IBS (Int. Broadcasters Society) who had been putting all their money into the station. Capital disappeared from the airwaves but Caroline returned very unexpectedly with Dutch and English language pxs. In 1973 it appeared the new Caroline project suffered severe financial problems and trms were ceased. However, the ship stayed at its Northsea anchorage and when the Veronica ship Norderny lost her anchor running aground on the Scheveningen beach, Veronica could hire the Caroline ship enabling the station to support the big demonstration in De Hague. No less than 150,000 people protested against the

Atlantis. An English service was added. Another Belgian businessman, Sylvain tack, started to lease airtime on the Caroline ship under the name radio Mi Amigo (Jan. 1974- October 1978).

Following serious technical and financial problems in October 1978, Caroline returned at Easter 1979 and continued till march 1980 when the legendary MV Mi Amigo sank. 1978 and 1979 also marked a number of attempts by Radio Delmare. The station got on the air but didn't become a success because of setbacks and mismanagement.

Radio Mi Amigo made a sensational come-back in the Summer of 1979 from a new ship, the Magdalena. However, within a few months the ship ran aground within Dutch territorial waters, the end of a short-lived adventure on 272 metres.

Veronica had become a legal broadcasting society (1975) and it looked like the offshore radio era had definitively ended after the Mi Amigo sank. It was in the 1981 Summer that Radio Paradise started test trms from the MV Magda Maria. Within a few weeks the Dutch authorities boarded the ship and towed the Magda Maria to Amsterdam. A very prestigious project was already past even before any official broadcast had been put out! But still this was not the end. August 1983 Radio caroline made a glorious come-back from a new radio vessel, the MV

THE LASER 558 STORY

May 24th it was exactly 10 years ago that Laser 558 officially commenced broadcasts from the MV Communicator. A good opportunity for FRSGDX to publish a retrospective and reconstruct a number of affairs which took place behind the scenes. A sordid affair about a station which was immensely popular during its heydays but didn't survive because of setbacks and intrigues. It all happened 10 years ago.....

May 24th it was exactly 10 years ago that Laser 558 officially commenced broadcasts from the MV Communicator. A good opportunity to take a deep breath and publish a reconstruction about a station which was immensely popular and constantly pursued by setbacks. It was November 5th 1985 that the Communicator was towed into Harwich harbour. Please note it was the Communicator's captain- Paternoster- who was responsible that the ship fell into the hands of British authorities! This was a result of a period of intrigues, plots, pressure by the British authorities and amateurish behaviour. Already since December 1983 when the radio vessel dropped anchor in the international waters of the Northsea off Essex, things went continuously wrong. Soon the Communicator got a nickname: the unlucky ship. The most important backer of Laser, an Irishman called Smyth, contacted Englishman Paul Rusling to make sure his plans would become reality. Rusling who owned a pub in south east England presented

tanks. Crossing the Atlantic from Florida, U.S.A. happened to be a tough journey and via Ireland the ship sailed to the English south east coast. Several radio enthusiasts were undertaking trips to the Communicator and were surprised to find out there was no *antenna system* on the ship. Rusling thought he had developed an unique formula to radiate the transmitters' signals into the UK and across western Europe. The antenna wire would be connected to a huge balloon hanging some 100 metres above the Communicator. This would lead to a much greater *efficiency*. The system was indeed unique. But things went totally different and like Rusling had foreseen. The winter storms blew the balloon in the Northsea waves. This not only happened with one balloon but also with two spare ones. For a few weeks the ship was aimlessly at anchor. Rusling came with a temporary solution, awaiting the moment new antenna towers which had been ordered would be delivered (to erect a *conventional* antenna system). The ship was strung with thick

ready to be used for radio transmissions. What once was an oceanic survey ship had been converted in a floating jukebox, full of electronic equipment, generators, studios and oil

the ships causing little fires. People aboard the Caroline ship, close to the Communicator, thought the Yanks were letting off fireworks because of the official start of radio broadcasts... Once again a long period of inactivity followed and nothing was to be heard on the 729 kHz, the frequency which was used to conduct the first series of test trms. This period became even longer because the antenna towers which were ordered were confiscated by UK authorities (the popular DTI) just before a ship would deliver them. A second attempt succeeded and two new masts were erected and the antenna system was made operational. But also this time there was a snake in the grass. All was done in great haste and the masts didn't appear to be of solid quality. And the latter is a must, especially in view of the possible infamous Northsea gales. Soon these masts were known as Mickey Mouse masts and that was NOT meant as a compliment. The next problem : the 729 frequency was interfering with BBC Radio 4. A new frequency was chosen: 558 kHz. Laser owner Smyth and his New York marketing manager Roy Lindau were sick of Rusling's bungling and decided to sack him. That was a few weeks before the official start. According to Lindau, the organisation had been spending thousands of dollars because Rusling had made the wrong choice when he purchased equipment. Lindau declared: "It looks like Rusling fouled up our plans on purpose."

Smyth was determined that the station was sabotaged by Rusling. In his opinion Rusling tried to take over the station at a bargain.



himself as an engineer and all round offshore radio specialist. Smyth had no idea of how to run an offshore station and left everything to Rusling. It was October 1983 that- with much delay- the ship was

copper wire thus creating a *cobweb antenna*. Nevertheless the ship's signal was hardly audible. At the moment the English transmitter engineer upped the output, electric sparks covered the entire deck of

and new advertisers were attracted. The ratings were very impressive: millions of European youngsters were regularly tuning their dial to AM 558. The success

ALL EUROPE RADIO

Finally Laser officially commenced trms Thursday May 24th 1984. "This is All Europe Radio Laser 558 where you're never more than a minute away from music." It would take more than 6 months before some of the advertisers who had pulled out regained faith



of Laser urged Rusling to write a book, seeking for revenge for he was sacked from one day to the next. In his book he would blow the lid off. All secrets would be revealed. But at the time the book was published Rusling had not blow the lid off. It was the story of how the station was set up and at the same time an ego-trip. But what was worse was revealing names of persons who were secretly involved in the set-up. Some of them even had jobs at the BBC and ITV. They had a job on the side and were mentioned by their full names. Rusling went to any lengths. British law makes any involvement with

James Ryan. The latter was involved in several dubious financial transactions and was nearly involved in the 1983 return of Radio Caroline from the Ross Revenge. By the way: nor the negotiations with Libya neither those with Ryan were successful.

FIRST INTRIGUE

Not only Rusling hated Laser. Also the British radio industry was jealous because Laser attracted their listeners. They complained bitterly because Laser 558 'stole' their audience. The local radio stations, in particular those situated in the south east,

also saw a decrease of their revenue. As a result the American offshore station was discussed in the British parliament. But the fact was the ship was moored in the international waters of the North Sea thus making direct action impossible.

One of the

local stations which suffered most from Laser's popularity was *Radio Essex*. Managing-director Eddy Blackwell raised the matter within the association of independent local commercial radio stations. He proposed some action had to be undertaken against Laser 558. Rusling got wind of Blackwell's ideas and contacted him. Blackwell on his turn had read the book written by Paul Rusling, 'The Lid off Laser'. Together they could have some success... September 28th 1984 both men met at Blackwell's office. One of Blackwell's employees heard about Rusling's visit and got suspicious. He installed a hidden microphone in Blackwell's office and recorded the complete discussion! Ironical was that Eddy Blackwell was Radio London's sales manager in the 1960s. Remember Big L was also an all American venture. Almost 17 years after the demise of Radio London, Eddy Blackwell asked Rusling how to eliminate a different offshore station. Rusling said

this operation wasn't exactly a piece of cake. He needed 8 men to reduce Laser to silence once and for all. The crew including deejays would be locked in their cabins. Following this action the ship would be sailed to a British port where the ship would be held under arrest. The hijack would cost no less than £ 20,000, the equivalent of almost £ 7,000 (in those days). Blackwell was all for it but wasn't able to cough up that kind of money. The content of this very special conversation came to the Laser management's attention. Anonymously.... Immediately a complaint was lodged against Blackwell & Rusling by Roy Lindau in name of Smyth. Following a statement taken by the police, the two men weren't prosecuted. No doubt British authorities would have been very happy when the Laser ship would have been towed within British territorial waters. In a TV interview Rusling declared it was not him who took the first step towards the hijacking but a group of men. Rusling refused to make their identity public. Still there were plans to put an end on Laser 558.

DOWNHILL

Although Laser's popularity was increasing, the station's profits were rather disappointing. Regularly the station had to leave the airwaves because of bad weather. The weak structure of the antenna masts made things worse and it often happened that the two masts were prey to the rough Northsea weather. A number of times the masts broke like a matchstick. Or the generators had to be repaired or parts of the CSI transmitters burnt out. More and more deejays from the first moment left the station and returned to the U.S.A. A few big advertisers pulled out. There was just enough scope to keep the station going. But Irishman Smyth didn't give up. It was August 1985 when British authorities started a campaign against the offshore stations. Pressure from the BBC and IBA made the DTI decide to make it impossible for anyone to supply the radio vessels in the Northsea. The idea of supplying the Ross and Communicator from Spain and/or Morocco had to be cancelled because it was simply too expensive.

SPY SHIP

The DTI hired a ship full of state-of-the-art electronic equipment and began a continuous monitoring operation. Their ship was anchored in the vicinity of the Ross and the Communicator. For instance



Jessie Brandon

offshore radio punishable. As a result of his book Rusling made more enemies than friends. A reaction followed. December 13th 1984, when Rusling just closed his pub for a short afternoon break, a fire was breaking out. Authorities did an investigation and found out a fire bomb was thrown inside the pub. Laser told the authorities Laser could be behind this attack. But the Laser organisation had a different view: they were determined that Rusling had caused the fire himself because of raking in a payment from the insurance company and to tarnish the reputation of the Laser management. Salient detail: it appeared Rusling had put up his pub- the Punch Tavern- for sale but he failed to find prospective buyers. A payment by the insurance company could be used by Rusling to set up his very own offshore station. It wasn't important from which backer(s) the money would come from. Rusling had had contacts with the Libyan embassy and with the infamous



the ship-to-shore radio communication was monitored and the ships were watched with cameras using telephoto lens. Every person leaving the ships or joining the crew on the ships was recorded on video or photos were taken. The problem for Laser was in particular the DTI registration of the ships taking care of supplies. More and more owners of these ships were fined. They even run the risk their ships would be confiscated. As a direct result it often happened the supplies didn't arrive in time. In the mean time Radio Caroline and Radio Monique had found a new possibility (tenders from Spain??) and it was arranged that Laser could join by the end of 1985. Any ships coming from Spain couldn't be opposed because there wasn't any offshore broadcasting law in that country. And then the Spy Ship- the nickname Laser's crew used for the DTI vessel- would be doing its work for nothing.

NEW INTRIGUE

It looked like the people who wanted to get the Communicator within territorial waters were very serious to make a success of their plan. Even in the Netherlands attempts were made to enlist a number of people whose task it was to carry out a hijack. Their plan wasn't feasible and so an alternative was found: a captain had to be found who was prepared to infiltrate into the world of offshore trying to get a job as captain on the Communicator. He had to wait for a perfect moment to bring the ship within territorial limits. It would be a piece of cake to keep the ship within national waters. For Paul Rusling claimed Laser owed him £35,000 (more than £11,000) and the authorities could also help raising doubts about the ship's seaworthiness. The American captain returned for a longer period to the USA and the people succeeded to find an infiltrator. Already after a week this captain started threats he would be sailing to an English harbour if there wouldn't be more supplies. Early November 1985 he had an ideal opportunity: because of the stormy

weather the tender was unable to put out to sea. There was hardly any drinking-water, almost no fuel and a lot of equipment didn't work properly. November 5th a short-circuit silenced all equipment. Only the ship's main engine was ok. Despite a CB radio message from the Laser office that a ship with supplies was on its way, the captain decided to sail to Harwich. He informed the inexperienced dee-jay crew (all were relatively new on the ship) the situation was hopeless. To make it even worse he said the ship could run aground on a sandbank and break in two. Only programme-controller Graig Novak knew better than that because he had much more experience than the others. He got suspicious and the last thing he did was putting out encoded messages via CB trying to warn the Laser people ashore. It was too late. The Caroline crew heard about the problems on the Communicator and offered help. Via the radio

DTI & shipping inspection officials climbed aboard. The first official action was an *attachment* because of financial claims shelved at Justice. One claim came from Rusling (£35,000) and an unexpected one came from Gardline Shipping Ltd. (£20,000). The latter amount of money would not have been paid in 1983 for bringing the Communicator to Florida. Laser's spokesman John Catlett declared Rusling owed them money for damages and losses. He also said they paid the shipping company in cash directly after the ship arrived in Florida. Eversince Laser hadn't heard anything from Gardline. It was significant how fast both Rusling and the Gardline company were informed about the state of affairs. Interviews in British newspapers learnt that the captain's family and relatives didn't know about his work on the Communicator... He did a moonlight flit and he didn't contact none of his family during his stay

on the Communicator. Very strange indeed! The captain and his 4 British crewmembers stayed ostentatiously on the ship thus keeping up appearances of being underpaid. The 'poor' captain refused to go on land until his full salary had been paid. After being one day on the Communicator the shipping inspection officials had compiled a whole shopping list of mostly inane defects. As expected by many insiders, these defects were the basis to declare the ship not seaworthy. The station wouldn't get back on air unless all outstanding debts

would be paid and the defects be repaired.

In fact this wasn't the final episode in the life of Laser. A year later the ship would make an unexpected and very exciting return on the AM airwaves. But that's a different story.

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FRSGDX is planning to publish another Laser Story in the not too distant future. That story will cover other aspects which weren't part of the above story. We'd like to thank Hans Knot/Freewave for their help!



Photo: MMI managing-director Roy Lindau

they tried to convince the Laser captain not to sail to Harwich. The captain refused any help. It was in the late afternoon of Wednesday November 6th 1985 that the Communicator put in at Harwich harbour. He was only too happy to accept the help of a DTI ship. Ironically it was the *Gardline Tracker*, a sister-ship of the Communicator, which replaced the other DTI ship. Immediately after the Communicator had dropped anchor in the River Stour at a distance of some 200 metres from the quay, police men, customs officers, immigration service officers,